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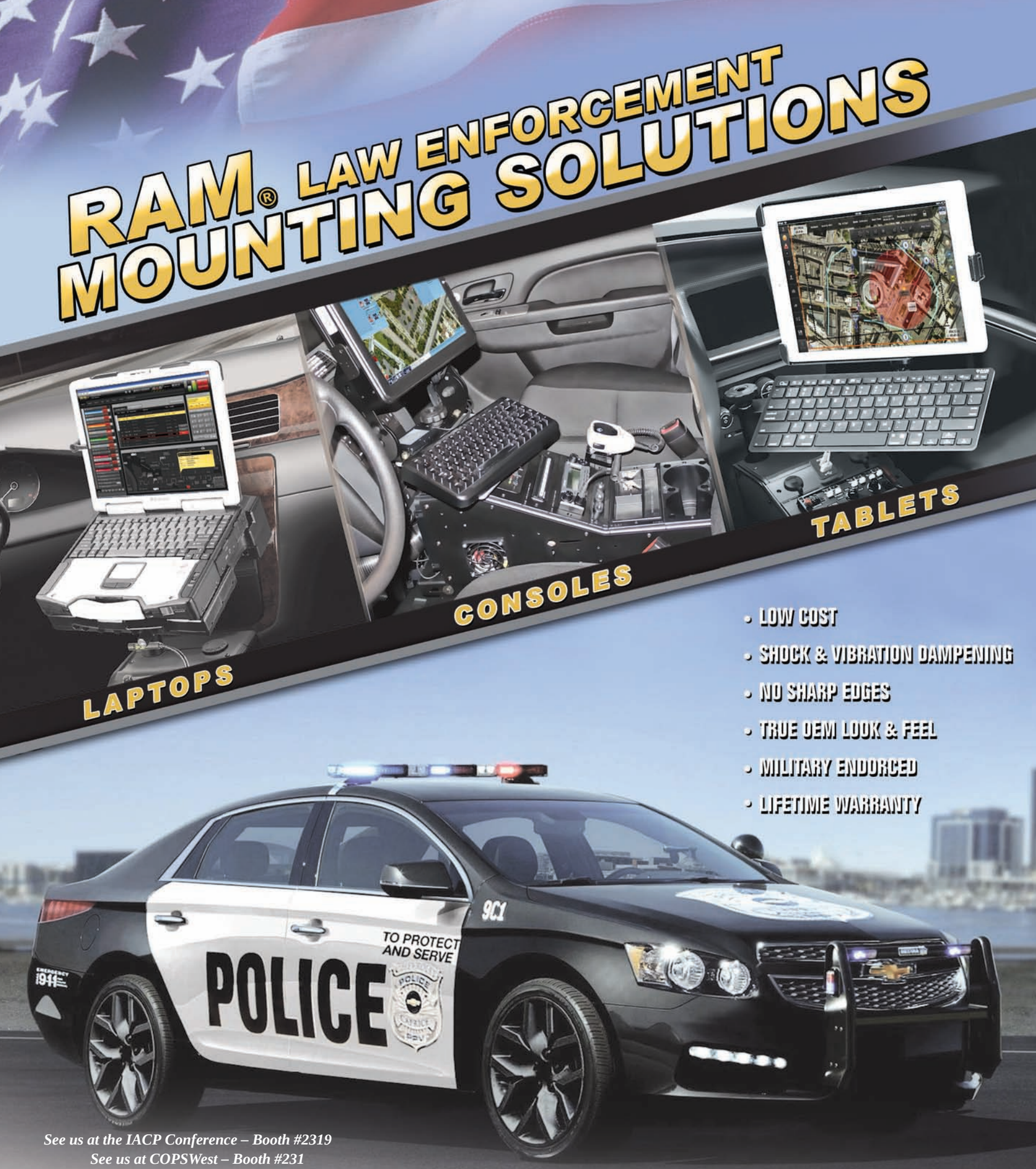

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PUBLISHER: David A. Yaw
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Al Menear
MANAGING EDITOR: James Devery
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR: Bill Siuru
ARTWORK & DESIGN: BCD Company
GENERAL MANAGER: Cindie Bonsall
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Bill Zadlo

ADVERTISING:
Al Menear
Toni Saturno

POLICE and SECURITY NEWS
1208 Juniper Street
Quakertown, PA 18951-1520

Phone:
(215) 538-1240
Fax:
(215) 538-1208
E-mail:
info@policeandsecuritynews.com

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New Holster for Springfield XD-S™

DeSantis Gunhide® recently introduced its latest holster availability for the Springfield XD-S in .45 and 9mm. The **Intruder**® is designed for both concealment and comfort. It is tuckable and adjustable for both height and cant. The holster back consists of top grain premium steer hide and the leather front component is finished with a supremely durable polyurethane film for lasting beauty. Each **Intruder** holster is molded from genuine Kydex® sheet to exact specifications.

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New Transport Bag

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New Holster

The patented design of the new IWB **Professional Series holster for the Springfield XD-S 9mm**, from N8[2] Tactical, allows you to carry your handgun all day, in complete comfort, by isolating the handgun from you. The **holsters** are handmade in the USA and include a lifetime warranty.

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New Exterior Garment

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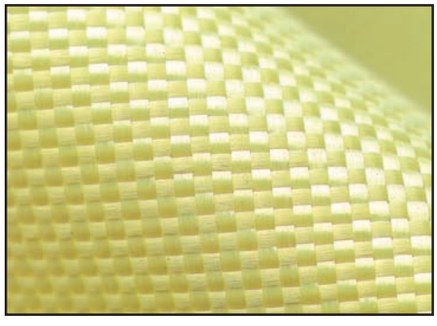

New Fabric Offers Lighter Weight Solution for Ballistic Vests

Teijin Aramid recently introduced a new **Twaron® CT 608 fabric** which is engineered to achieve up to a 20% weight reduction in a ballistic panel with equal or greater ballistic performance in the same weight vest. This next generation aramid fabric is an extension of the high performing, lightweight aramid yarn, Twaron 550dtex f1000, the world's first ultramicrofilament para-aramid fiber.

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New Transport Case

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Mocean has introduced Style #0568, a **2-Tone External Vest Carrier**, designed to be worn over two-tone and solid colored short sleeve and long sleeved polo shirts. The #0568 is made of machine washable and dryable CORDURA® nylon which will not shrink, stain or fade and will accommodate the majority of ballistic armor vests worn under a uniform shirt. It is available in many two-tone and solid color combinations.

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Ramesh Nyberg

SMALL TOWN, USA

How many of us could live in a place like Lindsborg?

I've written about the oddities of my home state of Florida before, so I won't belabor the topic. I'll leave alone the fact that, if you do not speak Spanish here, you are the minority. I will not write about the Burmese pythons which have taken over the Everglades (and have strangled several human beings) because of irresponsible people who dump them there when they get too big for the aquarium they bought. I'll stay away from the distressing news that, in our county alone, three municipal mayors have been arrested on unrelated corruption charges in the last two months. No, I'd rather discuss the brotherhood of police work.

I would rather discuss policing in Lindsborg, Kansas (umm...*where?*).

My wife and I took an epic road trip this summer and our first stop was Blue Ridge, Georgia, where we rented a cabin with a gorgeous mountain view. We spent two nights there and then headed out to the Rockies. On the way, we stopped in Kansas City and stayed in my friend's condo for a night. We headed out the next morning across the Great Plains; our destination was Rocky Mountain National Park. (By the way, if you haven't seen enough corn in your life and you get the urge to look at cornfields, drive across Missouri, Kansas, or South Dakota. You'll be more than satisfied.)

While driving across Kansas, we saw a sign along I-70 which said, "Visit Lindsborg, Kansas: America's 'Little Sweden' – Swedish Gifts and Food!" I happen to be half Swedish. My grandparents on my dad's side were Swedish immigrants. I thought the Swedes all settled in Minnesota and Wisconsin, but here we were in the middle of Kansas. We decided we had to stop. Lindsborg was delightful. It's a very small town surrounded by – what else – cornfields and it was decorated with Swedish artwork and there were signs in Swedish and Swedish flags everywhere. After we nearly went broke in the town's main gift shop, I decided I should visit the police department and see if they would give me a patch for my collection. The moment we pulled up in front of the building, we knew all about Lindsborg's crime rate. It wasn't even called the police department – it was called the "Lindsborg Safety Center."

And – it was *closed*.

Are you reading me, big city police people? It was locked up and the lobby was dark and unmanned. There was a sign on the door which read, "The Lindsborg Safety Center is closed weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m." There were two numbers listed to call if you needed the police. As my Swedish grandmother would say, *"Vell, can you beat dat?"*

I started my police career in a town just slightly bigger than Lindsborg. The difference was that it was a ghetto and, as soon as you got out of roll call and hit the streets, there was usually a felony call ready to be dispatched to you. Every third traffic stop you took would yield either a warrant or a gun under the car seat, and there was no such thing as a "slow" night. The concept of a community so peaceful and idyllic that they can close the police department is mind-boggling to me. As we drove out of Lindsborg, my wife and I both joked about that and, at the same time, we realized that there are probably hundreds of small towns around America like this where people don't have to lock their doors and they can take strolls downtown late at night without fear of anything happening. It was – if I may sound corny for a moment – heartwarming.

"Do you think," my wife asked me, "you could live in Lindsborg?"

I thought for a moment.

"Yeah," I answered her. "As long as I could be a cop and work that day shift they have."

Here in Miami-Dade County, there are 34 municipalities, each with its own government, mayor, and police department. The county is huge (it's larger than Rhode Island) and, since the 1930s,

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communities have been disenchanted enough with county services (which have never been adequate enough to spread out to everyone) that they have incorporated. Residents who longed for a peaceful life, and a police department which can be around the corner when they need it, broke away from the county and formed their own municipalities. It hasn't stopped – three new towns have incorporated in the last ten years. At one time, some of those municipalities were almost as crime-free as Lindsborg. Now, though, even the "safest" towns block off their residential streets from connections to major boundary roads to limit traffic from "outsiders."

One of the main reasons so many big police departments went back to "community policing" in the '80s and '90s was to try and recapture that small town feeling, get the residents back on their side, and create the trust which was lost in previous decades. Remember when supervisors brought the message down from the top of the chain? From now on, you'll get out of your patrol cars a couple of times a shift; walk the business district; make contact with the shop owners and bar managers; and give out football cards to the kids.

A lot of us grumbled about it, but I think we were at the point in our profession where we had to find some resolutions – especially in the inner cities. I remember people were shocked when we

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started "walking the beat" and making random contacts. But, they were shocked in a good way. We actually did regain some trust with the citizens and got some of them to believe we cared. Communication increased when they saw the same officers in their neighborhood every day and, when we needed that tip, that important whisper in the ear, we got it more often.

Isn't that the way policing was always meant to be – citizens and police working together for a common goal, to better the neighborhood? Either I'm getting nostalgic in my old age or I'm longing to get out of the urban sprawl I've lived in my entire life. It's both, probably. I've got a chunk of land in north Georgia overlooking the mountains in a beautiful place called Talking Rock. It's on a gravel road and I can't see my neighbors. Three minutes down the mountain and right across the street is huge Carter's Lake and reservoir, full of bass just waiting for my hook. The nearest town is Ranger, Georgia, and I don't know who the mayor is. I'm willing to bet, though, that he's not getting indicted any time soon and I'm more likely to run into him at the general store a few miles away – or on Carter's Lake – than see him on the evening news in handcuffs.

My magazine rack at home is bulging with back issues of *Log Cabin Home* magazine, and my wife and I have our favorite model stuck to the fridge to remind us that we need to save (actually, if it wasn't for her, I'd never get that place built – she's the money whiz in this place).

If you haven't guessed, I'm pretty much done with the traffic, the rudeness, the disregard for other people (and snakes), and the culture of corruption in South Florida. Once my nine-year-old daughter is off to college, there's an excellent chance I'll be heading north on I-75 towards Talking Rock.

If you are one of those who live in a Ranger or a Lindsborg, consider yourself lucky. You might not have the glitz and glamour of South Beach, but you don't have rush hour traffic, either.

And, at least you save a lot of tax dollars keeping the "safety center" closed most of the day.

About the Author: Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006. He spent 27 years in police work in South Florida, 22 of those years in homicide as an investigator. He has taught homicide investigations and interview/interrogations at the local police academy. He now teaches criminal justice classes at a high school in the Miami area. His students frequently read the copies of Police and Security News *he brings to the classroom.*

Mr. Nyberg enjoys hearing from readers and can be contacted at ramesh.nyberg@gmail.com.

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Michael Carpenter

LOYALTY: HOW TO GET IT AND HOW TO KEEP IT

As a police supervisor or commander, you need loyal employees who will support you and look out for you.

Whether you are assigned to frontline operations or administration, the loyalty of your subordinates is critical to your success and well-being. Unfortunately, few commanders think about loyalty until they need it. Then, they expect that their loyal employees will be there to support and protect them. Maybe, it will happen...and, maybe, it won't.

Smart commanders develop loyalty among their subordinates long before they need it. They recognize that loyalty is a two-way street. To gain the loyalty of your subordinates, you must be loyal to them. To help you, here are a few tips on developing loyalty.

Be Pleasant and Approachable

Loyalty starts by having a mutually good feeling about the other person. A smile and a warm "good morning" are a good starting place. Over time, your pleasant attitude and approachability will help foster an atmosphere of mutual understanding and commitment.

Know Your People

Your people are your most valuable asset as a police commander. However, they are people, not objects, and should be treated accordingly.

Get to know them as people. Ask about their hobbies and interests. Ask about their families, their health and their vacations. Take a genuine interest in them.

Learn their strengths and their weaknesses. Steer them in the right direction so they can maximize their own potential to reach their goals.

Help Your People Do Their Jobs

As their boss, you are in a position to eliminate stumbling blocks to the successful completion of your subordinates' tasks. You may have to cut some "red tape" for them, make sure they have the right equipment, or assign more resources to help them. But, most importantly, be sure you give them the encouragement they need to perform their most difficult tasks.

Train and Develop Your People

If employees are well trained, they do what is expected of them confidently and willingly. However, a lack of proper training can make their tasks difficult and uncomfortable. As a good boss, ensure they get the training they need. Tell them what you expect from them. Take time with them until they have learned the job thoroughly and can do the job comfortably.

After that, teach them new or easier ways of doing their jobs. Encourage them to learn new skills – either on- or off-the-job. In fact, arrange for it by making them aware of schools, seminars, training sessions and new technology. The new skills they learn will help them grow, and you will be able to rely on them for new projects or increased responsibilities.

The resulting rapport you will build will bring you both closer to a mutual respect and loyalty.

Watch Out for Your People

As a commander, you must protect your people from unreasonable rules or poor decisions which can adversely affect them. You must recognize their views and perspectives and represent them to your supervisors.

When your subordinates make an error, help to minimize the effect of that error. You may also be able to minimize the consequences they face in a disciplinary action.

Good bosses know that they, too, will make an error some day and that a subordinate might be able to help them. If the boss has watched out for, and helped, his subordinates in the past, he can expect their help when it is needed.

Loyalty is a difficult term to actually define; yet, we all know it when we see it. It cannot be forced on demand. It is developed over time, through an ongoing series of events leading to the

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feelings of mutual trust and admiration which we call loyalty. A commander cannot be successful without it.

About the Author: Mike Carpenter has been on the police side of criminal justice for more than 25 years. He started out as a city cop and then went to a state police agency (trooper, detective and patrol sergeant). After that, he worked for the New York State Police Division of Criminal Justice as a police training specialist.

Currently, he teaches criminal justice courses at a college in upstate New York. He has two master's degrees; has been a certified police trainer for more than 20 years; has written numerous articles; and operates a police management consulting business (www.policemanagement.com).

NEWS

Portland Police Defend Boxing in Vehicles

The Oregonian reports that outside consultants who reviewed a police fatal shooting of Keaton Otis following a traffic stop have urged the Portland bureau to consider banning a box in maneuver when officers have a reasonable belief someone in the vehicle being stopped has a gun.

The newspaper said that, after two Portland police cars pulled over Otis' vehicle in Northeast Portland in May 2010, a third police car was directed to park directly in front of Otis' car to box him in and prevent him from driving away.

Robert Miller of the County of Los Angeles' Office of Independent Review is quoted in the article, saying many other agencies do not allow boxing in because the likelihood it will result in gunfire is greater and it can put officers at greater risk. Miller's office has reviewed six police shootings which occurred in Portland between 2005 and 2010.

Portland police are unwilling to curtail the procedure, stating, "The element of surprise and the ability to isolate a suspect and separate them from other persons or to prevent a potential barricade situation make this tactic an appropriate option," the bureau's written response said. "With proper training and planning, the use of a box in is an appropriate tactic when dealing with a potentially armed subject when other means of arrest may create a greater threat to the public."

To read the complete report in *The Oregonian*, visit **http://tinyurl.com/kmk3n5j**.

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Larry E. Holtz, Esq.

DNA IDENTIFICATION OF ARRESTEES

When a police officer makes a lawful arrest and brings the suspect to the station to be detained in custody, is the taking and analyzing of a cheek swab of the arrestee's DNA reasonable under the Fourth Amendment?

Recently in *Maryland v. King* (U.S. 6-3-2013), the United States Supreme Court said, "Yes!" According to the Court, the DNA identification of an arrestee "is a reasonable search that can be considered part of a routine booking procedure. When officers make an arrest supported by probable cause to hold for a serious offense and they bring the suspect to the station to be detained in custody, taking and analyzing a cheek swab of the arrestee's DNA is, like fingerprinting and photographing, a legitimate police booking procedure that is reasonable under the Fourth Amendment."

The Case: Defendant Alonzo King "was arrested in Wicomico County, Maryland, and charged with first- and second-degree assault for menacing a group of people with a shotgun. As part of a routine booking procedure for serious offenses, his DNA sample was taken by applying a cotton swab or filter paper – known as a buccal swab – to the inside of his cheeks." The DNA matched the DNA taken from a Salisbury, Maryland, woman who was raped in 2003. King was tried and convicted for the rape. While additional DNA samples were taken from him and used in the rape trial, there was no doubt that it was the DNA from the cheek sample taken at the time he was booked which led to him being linked to the rape and charged with its commission.

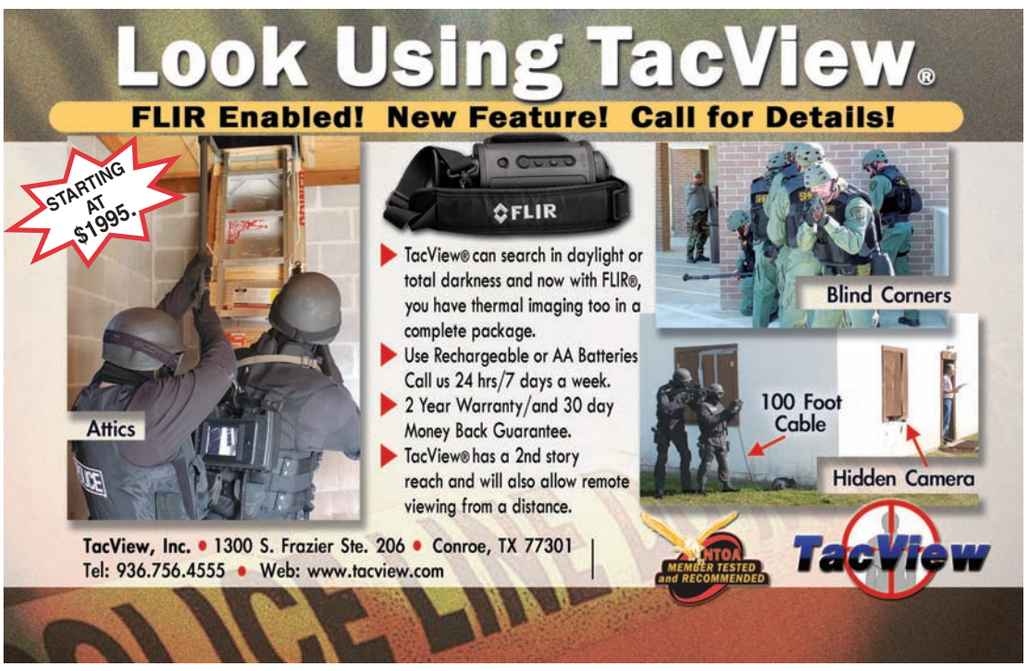
The Maryland court found that the DNA sample taken from King "was an unlawful seizure because obtaining and using the cheek swab was an unreasonable search of the person." That court set the rape conviction aside, ultimately determining that the Maryland statute which had authorized the collection of DNA from felony arrestees was unconstitutional. *The United States Supreme Court disagreed and reversed.*

The Law: "The advent of DNA technology is one of the most significant scientific advancements of our era [and] * * * the utility of DNA identification in the criminal justice system is already undisputed. Since the first use of forensic DNA analysis to catch a rapist and murderer in England in 1986, law enforcement, the defense bar, and the courts have acknowledged DNA testing's unparalleled ability both to exonerate the wrongly convicted and to identify the guilty."

The defendant's DNA was collected in this case using "a common procedure known as a 'buccal swab.' Buccal cell collection involves wiping a small piece of filter paper or a cotton swab similar to a Q-tips® against the inside cheek of an individual's mouth to collect some skin cells. The procedure is quick and painless. The swab touches inside an arrestee's mouth, but it requires no 'surgical intrusion beneath the skin,' * * * and it poses no 'threat to the health or safety' of arrestees."

Without doubt, "using a buccal swab on the inner tissues of a person's cheek in order to obtain DNA samples is a search" within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment. Unlike the drawing of blood, however, a buccal swab "is a far more gentle process[.] It involves but a light touch on the inside of the cheek; and, although it can be deemed a search within the body of the arrestee, it requires no 'surgical intrusions beneath the skin.' "

"To say that the Fourth Amendment applies here is the beginning point, not the end of the analysis. In some cases, when faced with 'special law enforcement needs,' the Court has found that a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warrantless search or seizure may be reasonable. The need for a warrant is perhaps least when the search involves no discretion that could properly be limited by [placing] a neutral magistrate between the citizen and the law enforcement officer."

This is such a case. "The Maryland DNA Collection Act provides that, in order to obtain a DNA sample, all arrestees charged with serious crimes must furnish the sample[.] The arrestee is already in valid police custody for a serious offense supported by probable cause. The DNA collection is not subject to the judgment of officers[.]" Thus, the Court determined that it is a procedure judged by the traditional standards of reasonableness under the Fourth Amendment.

The application of "traditional standards of reasonableness" requires a court "to weigh 'the promotion of legitimate governmental interests' against 'the degree to which [the search] intrudes upon an individual's privacy.' "

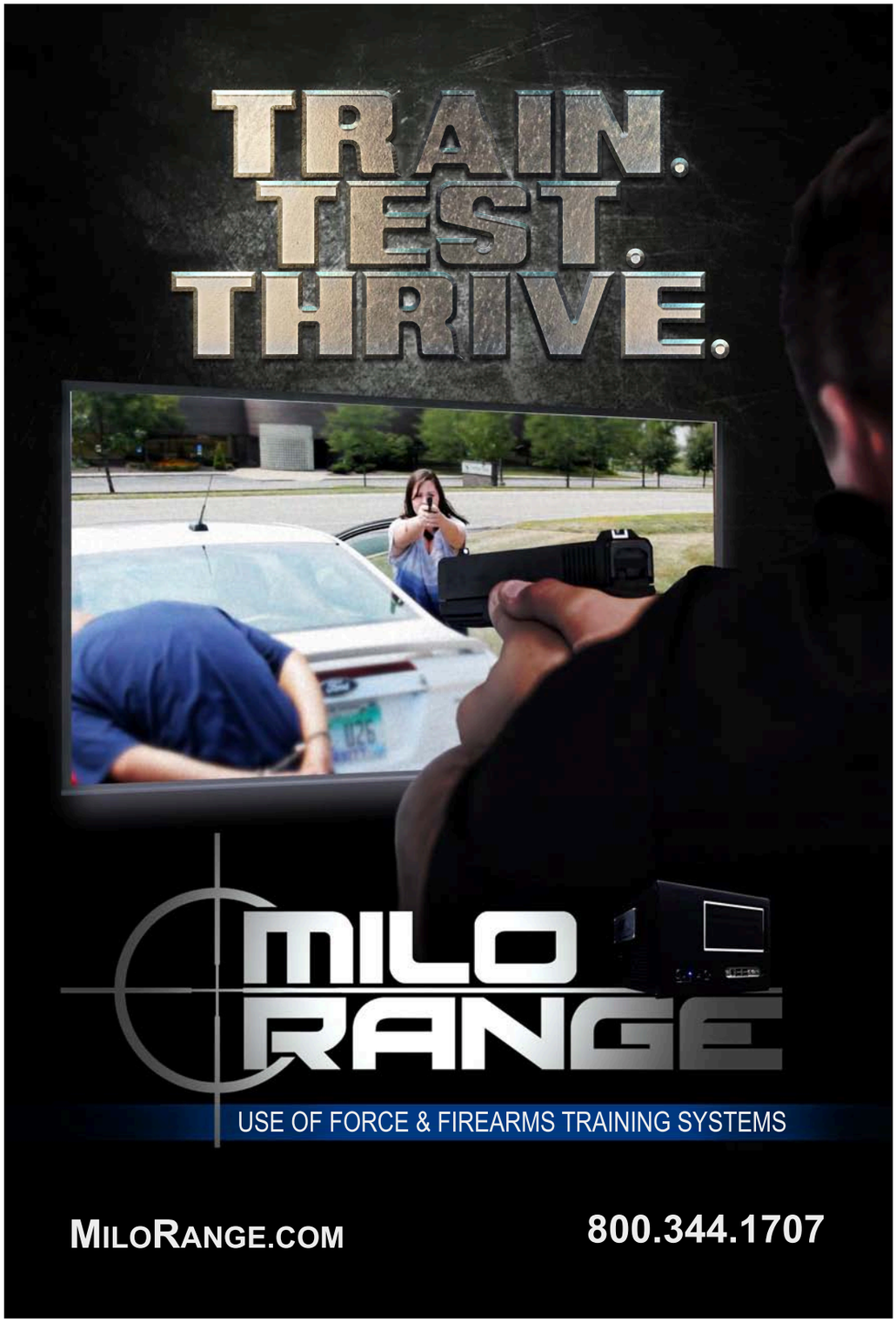
"The legitimate government interest served by the Maryland DNA Collection Act is one which is well established: the need for law enforcement officers in a safe and accurate way to process and identify the persons and possessions they must take into custody. It is beyond dispute that 'probable cause provides legal justification for arresting a person suspected of crime, and for a brief period of detention to take the administrative steps incident to arrest.' " Also uncontested is the right of law enforcement to search a person incident to a lawful arrest. The constitutionality of such a search "does not depend on whether there is any indication that the person arrested possesses weapons or evidence. The fact of a lawful arrest, standing alone, authorizes a search."

Moreover, the interests related to the "routine administrative procedures" at a police station house incident to booking and jailing the suspect derive from the fact that the individual is now formally processed into police custody. "When probable cause exists to remove an individual from the normal channels of society and hold him in legal custody, DNA identification plays a critical role in serving those interests."

Clearly, in every criminal case, it must "be known who has been arrested and who is being tried. * * * An individual's identity is more than just his name or Social Security number, and the government's interest in identification goes beyond ensuring that the proper name is typed on the indictment. * * * A suspect's criminal history is a critical part of his identity that officers should know when processing him for detention."

Presently, the police seek identifying information, using "routine and accepted means as varied as comparing the suspect's booking photograph to sketch artists' depictions of persons of interest, showing his mug shot to potential witnesses, and of course making a computerized comparison of the arrestee's fingerprints against electronic databases of known criminals and unsolved crimes. In this respect the only difference between DNA analysis and the accepted use of fingerprint databases is the unparalleled accuracy DNA provides."

"The DNA collected from arrestees is an irrefutable identification of the person from whom it was taken. Like a fingerprint[, a] DNA profile is useful to the police because it gives them a form of identification to search the records already in their valid possession. In this respect, the use of DNA for identification is no different than matching an arrestee's face to a wanted poster of a previously unidentified suspect; or matching tattoos to known gang symbols to reveal a criminal affiliation; or matching the arrestee's fingerprints to those recovered from a crime scene. * * * DNA is another metric of identification used to connect the



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arrestee with his or her public persona, as reflected in records of his or her actions that are available to the police. * * * It uses a different form of identification than a name or fingerprint, but its function is the same."

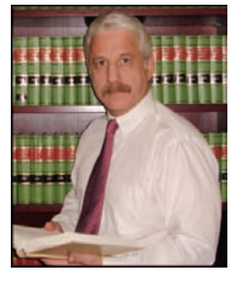
When an arrestee is incarcerated, "officers bear a responsibility for ensuring that the custody of an arrestee does not create inordinate 'risks for facility staff, for the existing detainee population, and for a new detainee.' * * * DNA identification can provide untainted information to those charged with detaining suspects[.]"

Moreover, an arrestee's past conduct is essential to "an assessment of the danger he poses to the public and this will inform a court's determination whether the individual should be released on bail. 'The government's interest in preventing crime by arrestees is both legitimate and compelling," and "DNA identification of a suspect in a violent crime provides critical information to the police and judicial officials in making a determination of the arrestee's future dangerousness."

"Finally, in the interests of justice, the identification of an arrestee as the perpetrator of some heinous crime may have the salutary effect of freeing a person wrongfully imprisoned for the same offense. 'Prompt DNA testing . . . would speed up apprehension of criminals before they commit additional crimes and prevent the grotesque detention of . . . innocent people.' "

"In sum, there can be little reason to question 'the legitimate interest of the government in knowing for an absolute certainty the identity of the person arrested, in knowing whether he is wanted elsewhere, and in ensuring his identification in the event he flees prosecution.' * * * To that end, courts have confirmed that the Fourth Amendment allows police to take certain routine 'administrative steps incident to arrest – i.e., booking, photographing, and fingerprinting[.]' " DNA identification of arrestees "is 'no more than an extension of methods of identification long used in dealing with persons under arrest.' * * * In the balance of reasonableness required by the Fourth Amendment, therefore, the Court must give great weight both to the significant government interest at stake in the identification of arrestees and to the unmatched potential of DNA identification to serve that interest."

Accordingly, "DNA identification of arrestees is a reasonable search that can be considered part of a routine booking procedure. When officers make an arrest supported by probable cause to hold for a serious offense and they bring the suspect to the station to be detained in custody, taking and analyzing a cheek swab of the arrestee's DNA is, like fingerprinting and photographing, a legitimate police booking procedure that is reasonable under the Fourth Amendment.



About the Author: Larry E. Holtz is the C.E.O. and Executive Director of Police Training for Holtz Learning Centers, Ltd. He has served as a Detective Sergeant with the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department; a Deputy Attorney General for the state of New Jersey; and an Assistant County Prosecutor. Mr. Holtz is a certified police trainer and teaches on a regular basis in police training academies in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

He is a member of the bar in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia, and is admitted to practice before the federal bar in the District of New Jersey and the Third Circuit."

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Product Highlight

Handguns & Accessories

KAHR ARMS

The **Desert Eagle 1911** single-action models are available in two barrel lengths (5" and 4.33") and are shipped with two eight round magazines with extended base pads for positive magazine insertion. The frame is precision cast and machined from high quality carbon steel; the slide is machined from solid billets of steel, then is finished in matte black.

Circle 5030 for More Information

WALTHER ARMS, INC.

The **PPQ® M2** semiautomatic pistol is chambered in either 9mm or .40 S&W; features a striker-fired action; and is enhanced with a smooth, precocked trigger at a constant pull of 5.6 pounds for greater control and accuracy. Each **PPQ M2** series comes standard with three different grip backstraps to custom fit the firearm to the user's hand. Additional features include a Picatinny style equipment rail, loaded chamber indicator and a tough polymer frame.

Circle 5031 for More Information

WALTHER ARMS, INC.

Walther Firearms has introduced the **PPX**, perfect as a self-defense, concealed carry or target gun. This hammer-fired, semiautomatic pistol has a smooth precocked trigger and comes in 9mm and .40 S&W in either black or stainless.

The barrel is four inches long with adjustable three dot steel sights. For safety, the new **PPX** has a loaded chamber viewport to quickly identify if the gun is armed and ready along with three different safety systems – two safeties and a firing pin block. It has a magazine capacity of 16 rounds for the 9mm version and a 14 round capacity for the .40 S&W.

Circle 5032 for More Information

RUGER®

The Ruger **SR45**™ has joined the popular SR-Series of full-sized and compact striker-fired pistols. Like the SR9® and SR40®, the **SR45** is built on high-performance, glass filled nylon frames offering all of the desirable ergonomic features found in the SR-Series: a slim, narrow frame with a short trigger reach; a reversible backstrap for an arched or flat configuration; and fully ambidextrous controls.

Circle 5033 for More Information

AMERICAN TACTICAL IMPORTS

The **CAT Laser OS Magnet System** (imported by American Tactical Imports) offers an optical glowing sight and laser sight in the same device. Installation and removal takes just seconds, and the device's powerful magnet keeps everything in place. The **OS Magnet**'s design is intended to make the shooter feel as comfortable as when shooting using the original sights.

Circle 5034 for More Information

ALTERNATIVE BALLISTICS LP

THE ALTERNATIVE™ is a lightweight, accurate system which provides less-lethal force in those situations where lethal force is warranted, but may not be appropriate. This blunt force impact device instantaneously converts an officer's duty weapon into a less-lethal weapon system while allowing continuous coverage of the threat. This assures that the officer is not vulnerable while transitioning to a less-lethal option.

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Circle 5035 for More Information

KIMBER AMERICA

Available in both .45 ACP and 10mm, the **Custom TLE/RL II** is designed for tactical duty carry and special deployment. It features night sights; a stainless steel match grade barrel; front strap checkering for a positive grip; and the Kimber Tactical Rail for mounting accessories.

Circle 5036 for More Information

DOUBLETAP™ DEFENSE LLC

DoubleTap Firearms has developed the world's smallest and lightest .45 ACP concealed carry pistol on the market today (also available in 9mm), the **Tactical Pocket Pistol**.

Its features include a titanium or aluminum frame with a MIL-STD finish which resists corrosion; stainless steel barrels; two rounds in the chamber and integral grips house an additional two spare rounds; optional ported barrels reduce muzzle flip and recoil; a small, slim, no snag hammerless design for easy pocket carry; an ambidextrous thumb latch to eject spent rounds; and a double-action trigger.

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Walt Rauch

THE NEW RUGER® LC380™

Based on the popular LC9™, but chambered in .380 Auto, this easy to shoot pistol is perfect for deep cover or pocket carry.

The Ruger® LC380™ (Light Carry) handgun is chambered in .380ACP and is made for deep concealment or pocket carry, as is its predecessor, the Ruger LC9® in 9x19mm (introduced in 2011). A side-by-side comparison shows the two, the LC9 and the LC380, to be identical. From the accompanying insert to the owner's manual: "...the Ruger LC380 has the same basic operational characteristics as the LC9 pistol." This is correct – to a point. Five changes were made to accommodate the new caliber: the slide, the barrel, a complete magazine and the pistol's two recoil springs which I think (not having an LC9 on hand) are of lesser strength than that used for the 9x19mm cartridge. These parts are listed as factory installation only. (I also don't foresee Ruger offering any sort of conversion service to change calibers from one to the other with either model.)

Features

The new LC380 is semiauto and double-action-only. It has a blued, through hardened (fully heat treated) slide and uses a linkless barrel locking/unlocking system. Its outer frame is black colored, glass filled nylon (aka polymer) with an inner metal frame. The LC380 weighs 17.2 ounces with an empty magazine; is six inches long, with a height of 4.5" and a width of .9"; and it has a 3.12" barrel. The magazine's capacity is seven rounds, plus one in the chamber, for a total capacity of eight rounds.

As mentioned, the frame is actually two frames with an inner metal chassis which contains the firing system and the outer frame, or shell, on which

The Ruger® LC380™ has molded checkering on its backstrap and a spurless hammer concealed in the slide.

the slide travels and on which the chassis is secured. As this latter unit is considered the "gun" portion, it is serial numbered, with this number visible through an opening in the polymer frame at the top of its right grip panel.

The sights are windage adjustable in dovetail cuts in the slide; the rear sight is further secured with an Allen screw. The wide (1.63") square cut, rear sight notch with two white dots on either side, when combined with the 1.25" single dot wearing front sight, makes for coarse, but quick, sighting. These sights are large enough to give a good sight picture.

Barrel lockup is via the chamber hood abutting into the large ejection port window. The pivoting external extractor is located at the lower right rear of the port and a centrally mounted, mechanical loaded chamber indicator is at the rear of the ejection port. When a round is chambered, this indicator rises at its front from the body of the slide and is thoughtfully marked "loaded when up." It

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The loaded chamber indicator of the LC380™ is centrally mounted in the top of its slide.

Left side view of the Ruger® LC380™

also displays red epoxy paint on either side. Inside the slide is a passive firing pin safety which is to the rear of the ejection port.

Eight wide diagonal grasping grooves are at the rear of the slide. These begin at the rear of the ejection port and end at the forward angled rear of the slide. A spurless external hammer lies within an opening at the rear of the slide and at the top of the backstrap. The slide is nicely tapered at its muzzle and along its bottom edges.

The metal chassis is secured with two pins through the polymer shell, with one up front and the other to the rear of it. An additional upper rear pin, also in the outer frame, holds the spurless hammer. The slide rails are molded into, and run the full length of, the top of the frame. A nicely curved backstrap allows the web of one's shooting hand to be well under the area of slide movement. The lower portions of the backstrap and front strap have molded checkering. Thumb grooves are on both sides of the finely checkered frame walls and aid in getting a good grip on the pistol. The nonambidextrous magazine catch is vertically grooved on its pressing surface and well protected from accidental release by a raised portion of the frame partially surrounding it.

Trigger

A large and rounded trigger guard allows for quick and sure access to the smooth faced, curved and hinged, double-action polymer trigger. The trigger pull measured seven pounds. The long, smooth trigger pull made the seven pound pull weight manageable. The trigger action does require allowing the trigger to run fully forward before it is ready to fire again. In essence, shoot it as you would pull the double-action trigger of a revolver.

The slide catch is centered above the grip area on the left side of the frame. To the rear of the slide catch is the thumb safety which is partially grooved. When the safety is moved down or "off safe," a red oval on the frame is exposed. When moved fully up, or "on safe," a white oval is exposed. The safety moves in a positive manner while remaining easy to use.

The grooved slide lock is just a bit forward of the thumb safety. You can apply the slide catch by first pulling the slide fully rearward while applying upward pressure on the slide catch until it engages and locks the slide to the rear. To release the slide, pull rearward on it while depressing the slide catch. It appears to me that the catch is not designed to simply be depressed to release the slide. I think doing so will quickly accelerate wear or even quickly damage this part. The slide locks open on an empty magazine. The LC380 has a magazine disconnect which prohibits the pistol from

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Indicated is the takedown pin of the LC380™; the Ruger® gun lock key is a handy tool for removing this pin.

firing until a magazine is fully seated.

The takedown plate which covers the takedown pin is forward of the slide catch. (These parts are addressed later.) A modified LC9 magazine holding seven rounds is used. Six witness holes are on either side and are numbered "2" to "7." As the .380ACP round is shorter than the 9x19mm and the same magazine body is used, there is a spacer in the back rear of the magazine body to consistently feed the shorter round. The magazine extends below the magazine well except where it is covered by the lower portion of the backstrap. The result of this is the creation of a lengthened grip. A finger grip extension base plate is supplied and the LC380 also ships with one magazine. (A note of caution here: Ruger states that, while the LC9 and LC380 magazines appear to be the same, one cannot be used in the other's differing caliber!)

The Ruger® LC380™, disassembled

Gun Lock

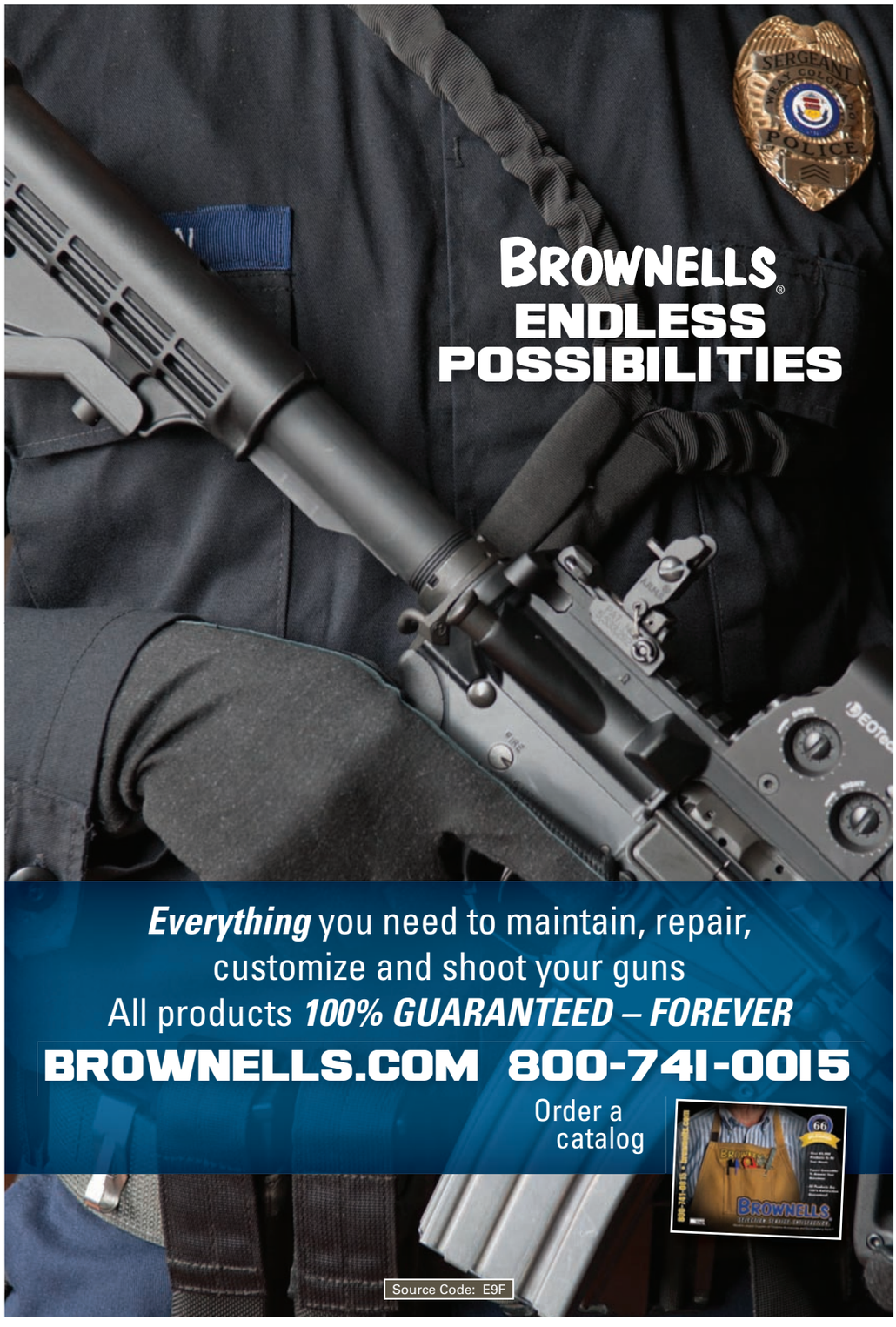
The LC380 has an internal gun lock with a keyhole at the top right rear of the frame. To engage the internal lock, apply the manual safety which can only be done when the pistol is cocked. With this done, insert one of two supplied keys into the small keyhole and rotate the key clockwise one fourth of a rotation. To deactivate, rotate the key counterclockwise the same one fourth of a rotation. When the lock is engaged, the trigger will move freely, but will not function. To disassemble, after insuring that the gun is empty and the magazine is removed, press down on the takedown plate and, using the internal gun lock key, push out the takedown pin from the right side of the frame and remove. Note: You can only remove the pin if the

LASER Cuts Homicides in LA

NEWS

A high crime area of Los Angeles recorded an all-time low of 16 homicides last year, compared with 36 the previous year. The Crime Report says the all-time low is the result of a "smart policing" initiative of the LAPD. Two patrol officers and a crime intelligence analyst were assigned to compile and distribute intelligence on chronic offenders and chronic crime locations. Policing expert Craig Uchida shared information about the initiative at the National Forum on Criminal Justice in Chicago recently. He said that Operation LASER (Los Angeles Strategic Extraction and Restoration Program) achieved "significant and tangible reductions in violent crime" from its start in September 2011 through last year, with 19 percent fewer violent crimes in the area.

To read the complete report, visit **http://tinyurl.com/llnnjr2**.



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semicircle notch on the slide is aligned with the circular top of the round pin. The slide assembly can now be moved forward off the frame.

Next, slightly compress the dual recoil springs on their polymer guide rod and remove. Move the barrel slightly forward, as doing so allows the barrel to be lifted up and out rearward. Further disassembly is not necessary or advised.

Range Results

AJ Stuart, Ted Murphy, Irv Gill and I shot at seven and ten yards, strong and weak hand only,

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CHRONOGRAPH RESULTS

The following data was obtained using a Pro-Chrony® chronograph at 300 feet above sea level with an ambient temperature of 78 degrees. The pistol used was a Ruger® LC380™ with a 3.12" barrel in caliber .380ACP, with five shot averages.

Ammunition	Velocity (fps)	Standard Deviation
Hornady® 90-gr. HP/XTP	952	14
Winchester® 95-gr. JRN (white box)	874	21
Winchester Silvertip® 85-gr. HP	971	18

Some seven yard results: a 2.5" five shot group using the LC380™; the DeSantis Pocket-Tuk™ holster is shown.

as well as two-handed, both deliberately and rapidly. We shot Hornady® 90-gr. HP/XTP, Winchester® 95-gr. JRN (white box) and Winchester Silvertip® 85-gr HP. Note: The owner's manual states the pistol is rated for, and can handle, +P ammunition, but cautions "...a steady diet of +P ammunition will shorten the endurance life..." The manual also clearly states (in red ink), "Do not use +P+ ammunition."

Downrange results mirrored our shooting pace and how well (or not) we were able to shoot using our dominant hand only. Groups ran from two inches to four inches. My three associates all agreed that the LC380 was very soft shooting and, since they've shot almost all of this caliber pistols I've had for T&E over the last few years, this is high praise indeed!

For more precise shooting, the sights of the LC380 are large enough and the rear sight notch is wide enough (as noted earlier) that the sight picture has lots of light visible on both sides of the front sight, enabling you to fully use all your marksmanship skills – even in dim light.

As far as a holster, I had the DeSantis Pocket-Tuk™ holster on hand and it looks to be a good match for this pistol. The Pocket-Tuk can be used either as a pocket holster or an inside the pants belt rig, as the holster is shaped such that it worked for me in a larger front pants pocket. I've had circumstances where I wanted to take off my suit coat, but I could not because my belt worn handgun would be exposed. With this rig, I could easily move the package to a pocket where, given its outline, it would also offer good concealment.

As to why you would choose this larger pocket pistol in .380ACP over a smaller model, it's pretty simple. Larger guns are easier to shoot well and, weighing more, have less felt recoil. Also, for those with large hands, just managing to pull the trigger

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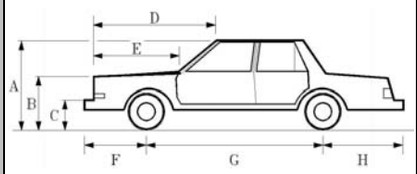

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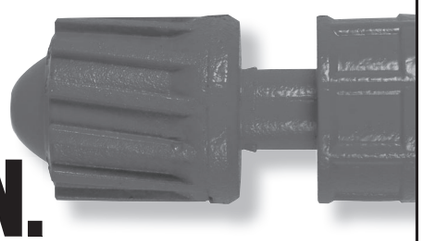

The image above shows the **Brenneke® Special Forces Short Magnum™ 12 ga. slug** demolishing 16 inches of FBI-spec gelatin. Independent tests compared the SFSM to five leading competitors. The result? There is no comparison.

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of some of the mini pistols is a struggle at best. And, with an MSRP of just $449, it's a good buy as well!

About the Author: Upon receiving his BS degree from Carnegie Tech and completing service as a Special Agent in U.S. Army Intelligence, Walt Rauch was a Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service and an Investigator with the Warrant Unit, First Judicial District, PA.

Rauch is also a writer and lecturer in the firearms field. He is published regularly in national and international publications.

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Slide: Blued, through hardened alloy steel
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Miscellaneous: One seven round magazine; finger rest base plate included
MSRP: $449.00
California approved: Yes
Massachusetts approved: No

Industry Focused Cyber Intrusion Reporting Platform Launched

In an effort to enhance the FBI's ability to mitigate and prevent serious cyber threats, the FBI has launched a secure portal allowing industry partners to quickly and safely report actual and attempted cyber intrusion incidents. Called iGuardian, the information portal is similar to eGuardian, a sensitive but unclassified platform for the FBI's law enforcement partners to provide potential terrorism related threats and suspicious terrorism related activity reports.

While eGuardian is available for law enforcement users through Law Enforcement Online, iGuardian was developed specifically for trusted industry partners within critical infrastructure sectors (telecommunications, defense, banking and finance, and energy) and is available over the InfraGard network. InfraGard is a public/private coalition of more than 55,000 vetted industry partners who already use a secure portal to share information and receive alerts from federal agencies and each other. iGuardian will provide an additional method through which the FBI can receive information.

The industry is being asked to submit specific information on computer intrusions of any kind, including malware infections, Web site defacements, and denial of service attacks. Access to the iGuardian system currently requires an InfraGard membership. A telephone help desk has been set up to assist companies with the iGuardian application and submission process, and a "frequently asked questions" page has been posted for members on the InfraGard Web site.

iGuardian will greatly speed up the process of submitting intrusion information to the FBI – it just takes a few minutes to fill out and submit the iGuardian form. Within minutes of submitting the form, agents and analysts will be able to quickly triage the submissions, notify previously unknown intrusion victims, and assign leads as appropriate to field offices for further investigation. The information in iGuardian will also give a big picture look at the threat from terrorists, nation-states, and criminal groups conducting complex cyber network operations against the U.S.

Later this year, partners will be able to submit actual malware to the FBI for quick analysis. Future iGuardian enhancements will include the ability of law enforcement industry partners to submit incidents and tips on threats and hazards affecting their companies, like intellectual property rights issues, theft of trade secrets, and potential terrorism related matters.

For more information, visit the InfraGard Web site at **https://www.infragard.org/**.

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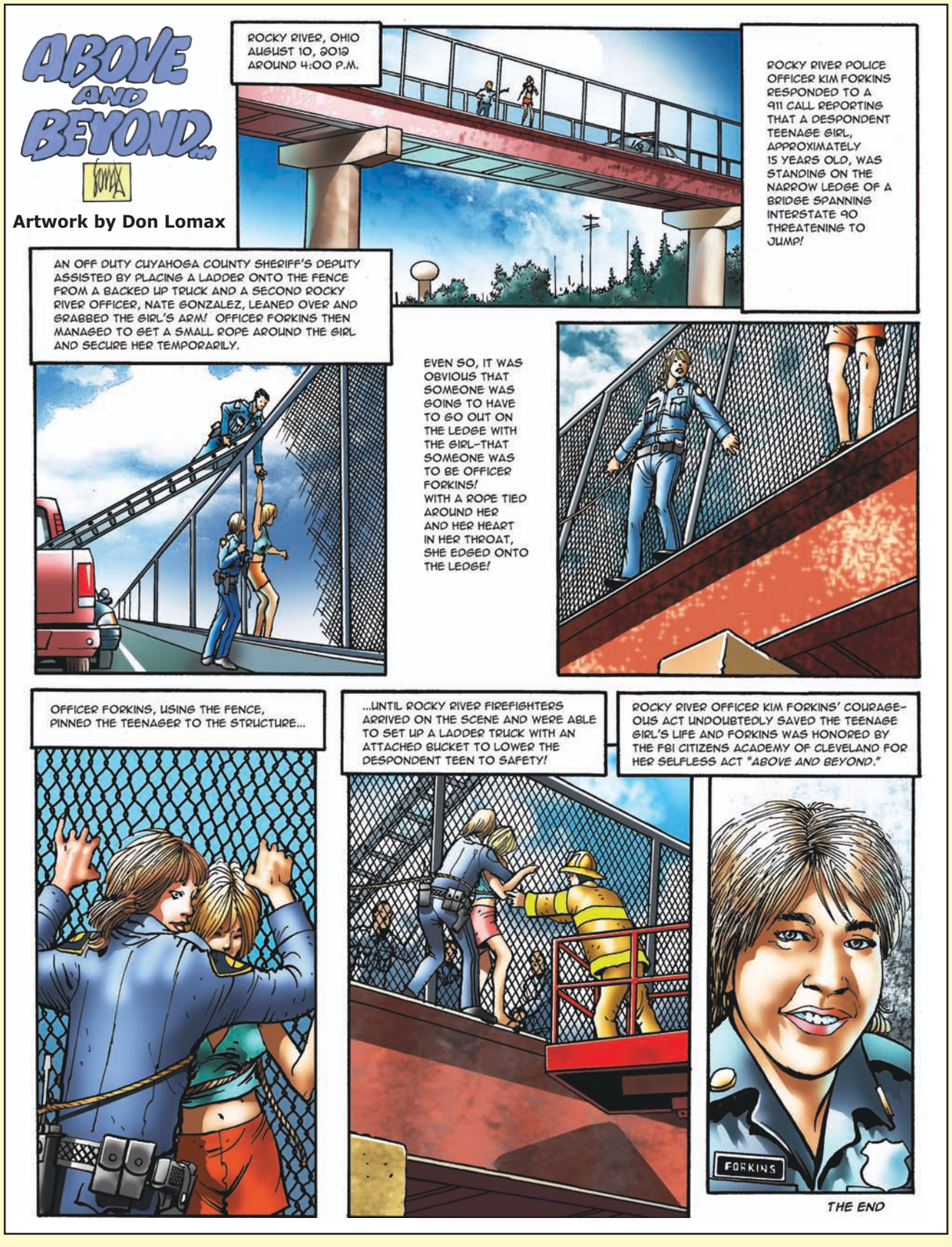
ABOVE AND BEYOND...
ROCKY RIVER, OHIO AUGUST 10, 2019 AROUND 4:00 P.M.
ROCKY RIVER POLICE OFFICER KIM FORKINS RESPONDED TO A 911 CALL REPORTING THAT A DESPONDENT TEENAGE GIRL, APPROXIMATELY 15 YEARS OLD, WAS STANDING ON THE NARROW LEDGE OF A BRIDGE SPANNING INTERSTATE 90 THREATENING TO JUMP!
AN OFF DUTY CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY ASSISTED BY PLACING A LADDER ONTO THE FENCE FROM A BACKED UP TRUCK AND A SECOND ROCKY RIVER OFFICER, NATE GONZALEZ, LEANED OVER AND GRABBED THE GIRL'S ARM! OFFICER FORKINS THEN MANAGED TO GET A SMALL ROPE AROUND THE GIRL AND SECURE HER TEMPORARILY.
EVEN SO, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SOMEONE WAS GOING TO HAVE TO GO OUT ON THE LEDGE WITH THE GIRL–THAT SOMEONE WAS TO BE OFFICER FORKINS! WITH A ROPE TIED AROUND HER AND HER HEART IN HER THROAT, SHE EDGED ONTO THE LEDGE!
OFFICER FORKINS, USING THE FENCE, PINNED THE TEENAGER TO THE STRUCTURE...
...UNTIL ROCKY RIVER FIREFIGHTERS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND WERE ABLE TO SET UP A LADDER TRUCK WITH AN ATTACHED BUCKET TO LOWER THE DESPONDENT TEEN TO SAFETY!
ROCKY RIVER OFFICER KIM FORKINS' COURAGEOUS ACT UNDOUBTEDLY SAVED THE TEENAGE GIRL'S LIFE AND FORKINS WAS HONORED BY THE FBI CITIZENS ACADEMY OF CLEVELAND FOR HER SELFLESS ACT "ABOVE AND BEYOND."
FORKINS
THE END

Artwork by Don Lomax

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Christa Miller

Making Sense of Chaos

How can mobile device data analytics help you investigate people, places and patterns and build cases with the information you find?

It's become common for law enforcement and corrections officers to encounter evidence on mobile devices in many kinds of cases. Seized as contraband in a jail, during a warrant execution or incident to arrest, or even booked as abandoned property, cell phones, GPS units, tablets and other mobile devices may contain communications between coconspirators, perpetrators and victims. Other times, they might contain incriminating images or videos, GPS track logs or social networking data.

At the same time, though, the amount of data in these devices can be overwhelming and an effective investigation doesn't just take data at face value. Investigators need a way to filter and sort it to determine what's most important. Even investigators who send devices to a lab for processing should understand what kind of data analytics can help move their investigation forward.

What Is Data Analytics and How Does It Help Investigations?

Good mobile forensics tools provide the ability to visualize patterns in device usage – either in general or during a defined time span. Analytics can also show not just how frequently suspects communicated with others, but also what mode of communication they used – telephone, text messages, E-mail, instant messaging and so on - and whether the communication tended to be one-way or two-way. Timeline analytics can arrange these in the order they occurred.

Why does this matter? Think in terms of a domestic violence or stalking case. The perpetrator may barrage his (or her) victim with repeated abusive text messages, calls and instant messages at a much higher volume than the victim's responses.

Universal Rules:
You will never "find" time for anything. If you want time, you must make it.
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Regular two-way communications are also important. They indicate close friends, family and associates, and can provide you with additional leads you may not otherwise have been aware of – the girlfriend or boyfriend the spouse doesn't know about; the parent or sibling in another state or country; or the business associate outside the subject's normal work circles.

Analytics are also important when it comes to identifying patterns of life. People tend to fall into regular activities and behaviors – calling the same people at the same time of day; traveling the same routes to work, home, the gym, or stores – without much deviation. Generally, these patterns only change with significant life events.

Intelligence operatives (both in the military and in law enforcement) use these patterns of life during "target analysis" as they seek to determine opportunities to disrupt an operation or intercept a target. Extracted data, such as geotagged images or other geolocation data, can predict where a subject is likely to be at some future point: a favorite restaurant; a relative's house; or, perhaps, a classroom – all on certain days of the week.

Normal patterns can be useful during investigations of criminal gangs, drug and human trafficking, prostitution, and other ongoing crimes. Anomalous patterns can be useful during investigations of violent crime, including homicide, rape and burglary. That's because communications often change significantly around the time of these crimes, with gaps in communication during the time the crime occurred, and unusual contacts and frequencies occurring afterward. Even when suspects try to cover their tracks with "normal-looking" communications, it is still usually a deviation from true normal.

Mobile Device Link Analysis for Analyzing More than One Device

So, analytics are useful for the mobile devices you seize in many different kinds of cases. But, consider that a single suspect and/or victim may own, and regularly use, two or more cell phones, GPS devices or tablets. For example:

• Drug dealers, human traffickers and others may have one "clean" device for everyday non-criminal activities, and a second or more device(s)

for their criminal activities.

• One suspect may have multiple victims, all with their own mobile devices. Common contacts, locations, timelines and key words can build better cases. The evidence can also disprove suspects' statements denying any connection to the victims.

• Organized criminals – whether gang members, localized drug dealers, or rings of pedophiles – often connect with one another via mobile devices.

Clearly, you can establish important links between the devices which suspects, victims and co-conspirators use. How should you manage all of this data? In the past, most investigators painstakingly integrated call logs and SMS records into a single spreadsheet, creating custom filters to search for common contacts, usernames and IDs, and incriminating content such as text messages. But, this could take many hours; made the results prone to human error; and could not be easily presented in court.

Gaining ground among investigators is mobile device link analysis software which connects the dots between two or more phones, GPS devices or tablets. Differentiated from very high-end link analysis tools by only focusing on mobile devices – not computers or cloud services or even scanned printed documents, and geared more toward smaller-scale cases than complex conspiracies or

NEWS

Court: Police Don't Need a Warrant to Obtain Cell Phone Data

In a significant victory for police, a federal appeals court ruled that law enforcement authorities could obtain historical location data directly from telecommunications carriers without a search warrant, *The New York Times* reports.

According to the news report, "...the closely watched case, in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, is the first ruling that squarely addresses the constitutionality of warrantless searches of historical location data stored by cell phone service providers. Ruling two to one, the court said a warrantless search was 'not per se unconstitutional' because location data was 'clearly a business record' and, therefore, not protected by the Fourth Amendment."

The federal appeals court acknowledged the government's argument that consumers knowingly give up their location information to the telecommunications carrier every time they make a call or send a text message on their cell phones.

To read the complete report in *The New York Times*, visit **http://tinyurl.com/mjkxslq**.

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large-scale cases involving criminal organizations – mobile device link analysis software automates many of the most time-consuming aspects of data correlation, providing leads and evidence in a much shorter period of time.

Just like single device data analytics, mobile device link analysis can show how often people contact one another, as well as mutual contacts and, even, locations. Showing the most important people in a subject's life (and the content of their communications) can lead to additional suspects or victims. It can also open lines of inquiry during an interview or interrogation.

That has the potential to build better cases. Take, for example, the domestic violence or stalking case. Put the volume of repeated abusive text messages, calls and instant messages together with GPS or other location-based data from the victim's mobile device, and you may see patterns which show the suspect physically stalking the victim, as well as digitally harassing him (or her).

Location data can also be important to narcotics and human trafficking investigations. Incoming calls or text messages to and from one particular person might point to a pimp or madam when extracted from a number of prostitutes' mobile phones. That person's device, in turn, could provide links to other prostitutes or even other criminal activities in which he (or she) may be involved.

Even property crimes investigations can benefit from link analysis. Log files, GPS and social location-based services can show one or more suspects "casing" the target location prior to committing the offense, as well as whether they communicated with potential accomplices while doing so.

Data analytics is useful to law enforcement in one other way: It can be incredibly valuable in court. Explaining the concepts for patterns of life, anomalous activities, timelines, and common locations is easier when judges and jurors can see for themselves how defendants acted before, during and after an incident.

About the Author: Christa M. Miller is Director of Mobile Forensics Marketing for Cellebrite USA, Inc. Christa has worked for more than ten years as a public safety trade journalist, specializing in digital forensics and other high-tech topics. She is based in South Carolina.

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NEWS

AMBER ALERT

City of Los Altos Utilizing New Technology to Reach Residents Instantly

The City of Los Altos (CA) is using a new communication service called Nixle to reach residents quickly. Utilizing the technology sources citizens are most connected to, Nixle allows the city to send alerts directly to registered users via text message, E-mail and the Web.

Nixle has been used around the country to help find missing children, evacuate flooded areas, and capture dangerous criminals shortly after a crime has been committed. According to a Nixle news release, the power in the system is its diversity of content, allowing not only those emergency alerts, but informing residents of road closures, city events, government meetings, and other helpful information.

Nixle enables the city to provide relevant and geo-targeted information to residents in a timely and effective fashion. Messages can be transmitted anywhere in a radius from .25 miles to ten miles, allowing neighborhood level, time sensitive information to be sent only to affected citizens.

Residents can register at **www.nixle.com** where they will be asked to provide their address or an intersection near them, a cell phone number and an E-mail address by which to receive notifications. Citizens then select which messages they wish to receive on which devices. Nixle builds on the foundations of other public to public communication services, such as Twitter and Facebook, but adds a key component: security. When citizens receive information via Nixle, the news release says they know it can be trusted.

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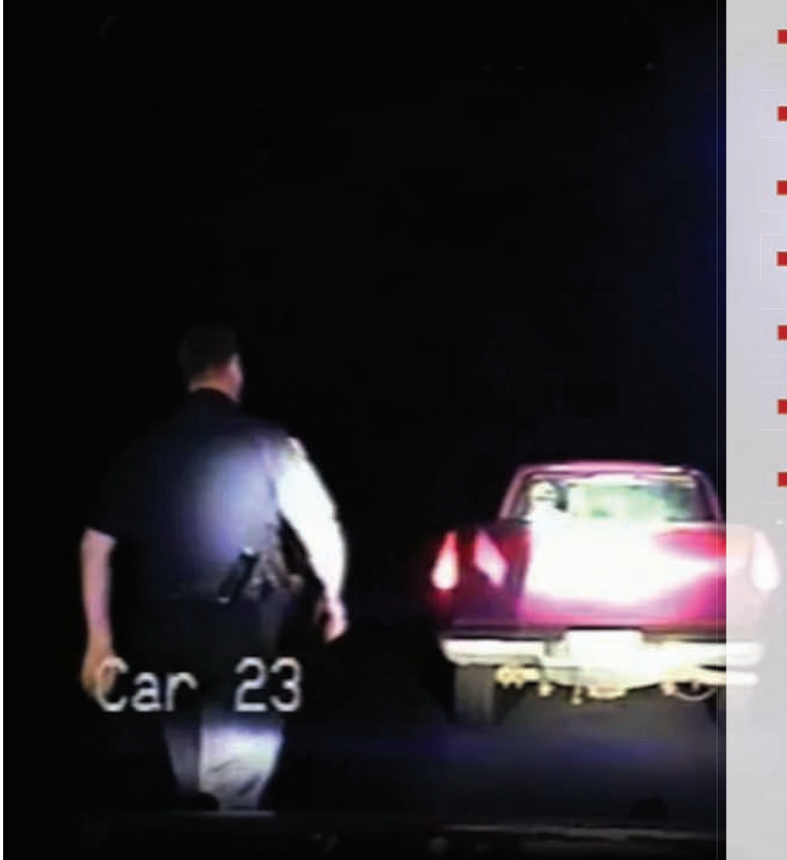

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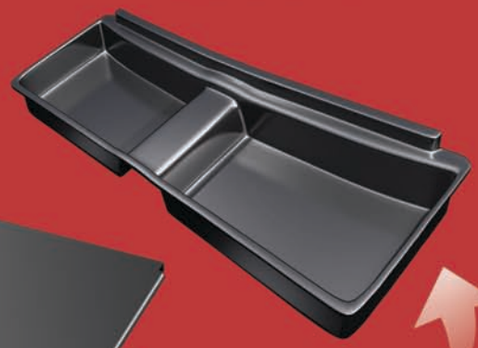

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SUMMER SCOOPS

I'm sure all you loyal readers think we're all laid back here at *P&SN* during these lazy, hazy days of summer, watching videos on the Internet.

Or, perhaps, you think we're ankle deep in a trout stream somewhere, or (I wish) tinkering with a classic car in the garage. But, you'd be mistaken, my friends – we're hard at it digging deep for the newest cop car info out there to share with you. Granted, this is, as they say, a "slow news" period since we're smack dab in the middle of the 2013 trade show season. We're also anxiously awaiting the upcoming Michigan State Police and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's yearly police vehicle tests and the flurry of announcements (and disclaimers) which accompany them, but there is news and we're here to bring it to you first.

We call this our "Summer Scoops" edition. No, we're not talking about the scoops of your favorite Ben & Jerry's dripping down your chin or some new exotic Italian ice on your best necktie – we're talking real news you can use right now as you consider future purchases and budgets. We'll start with police car news.

2014 Police Cruisers

We've used the dated term, police "cruisers," as we can't really call them police cars anymore, what with the popularity of SUVs, Tahoes and Ford Utility Interceptors. The vehicles patrolling today's streets, highways and country roads are a mix of sedans, SUVs, V-6s and V-8s, 2WD, 4WD and AWD.

Over 100 new police cruisers will be on Detroit's streets after a host of businesses donated $8 million in assistance.

Michigan State Police Tests

On September 21 and 23, 2013, the Michigan State Police will put the following 2014 police vehicles through their rigorous testing: Chevrolet Caprice (V-6 and V-8), Impala and Tahoe. From Dodge, they will test the current Charger (V-6 and V-8) and the new 2014.5 Chargers with both engines and the AWD version. Ford will present the Taurus-based Police Interceptors (PI) in FWD, AWD and turbocharged AWD and the PI Utility in AWD. Stay tuned to *P&SN* for the results of those tests, as well as those of the most police motorcycles ever tested – a whopping nine solos.

"Free" Police Cars

I'm sure that caught your attention, but, no, most of you don't qualify. Earlier this year, it was announced that the "Big Three" – GM, Chrysler and Ford – will donate 100 2014 police cars to the beleaguered city of Detroit. This generous gesture is part of a larger donation of $8 million from several Detroit-based corporations, such as Quicken Loans®, Kresge, Penske and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. The donation will also fund a much needed new police headquarters.

All new exciting graphics for the 100 police cars (and 23 ambulances) have been designed and can be seen with this article. Consisting of a partial vinyl wrap, "DETROIT POLICE" is boldly applied over a spectacular full color cityscape. But, even the graphics have become a point of contention in this city accustomed to controversy

2014 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV

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[1] When running on E85, Tahoe PPV offers an EPA-estimated mpg 11 city/16 hwy; Impala Police Vehicle 13 city/21 hwy; and Caprice PPV 13 city/18 hwy (V-6), 11 city/17 hwy (V-8). E85 FlexFuel capability is not available in AZ, CA, CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NY, OR, PA, RI, VT, and WA. E85 is a combination of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline. Go to afdc.energy.gov/afdc/fuels/ to see if there is an E85 fuel station near you.

[2] Based on results from the Michigan State Police Test conducted on Sept. 15 and 17, 2012.

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Learn more at gmfleet.com/police.

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Ocean Systems' Forensic Video Acquisition Field Kit Lightens the Load for Law Enforcement

Ocean Systems, a leading provider of forensic video analysis solutions, has now expanded its product offering of forensic video acquisition and analysis solutions to include a plug-and-play, lightweight, affordable video acquisition field kit. With the Omnivore Field Kit, first responders and forensic video analysts alike can go on scene and walk away with an uncompressed copy of the evidence they need to investigate the case.

Lack of Standards

Currently, investigators looking to acquire video evidence to help solve a case are forced to deal with a proliferation of Digital Video Recorders (DVRs). When they leave to go on scene, they often don't know what they will encounter, because today's DVRs have no set standards (as there are for videotape-based systems). There are literally hundreds of DVR manufacturers and thousands of models. Many have different recording methods, file formats and proprietary viewers which need to be located and installed. This creates a host of challenges for today's investigators looking to quickly and accurately utilize video evidence.

Collecting surveillance video wasn't always difficult. Investigators and first responders could simply hit the eject button on a video deck and the tape would pop out. With the video evidence in hand, they could take it back to their department or send it to a local agency/lab which had the proper processing equipment. Before long, DVRs replaced these video decks and obtaining video evidence became complicated. Now, with the release of the Omnivore Video Acquisition Field Kit, doing so has gotten easier again.

Obstacles

There are many obstacles investigators face while out in the field acquiring video evidence from a DVR surveillance system. Some DVRs don't have menu options to export a digital copy of the video. Some don't have the ports to connect external storage devices or, if they do, the ports are broken. Sometimes, the only export option is to CD/DVD and that option may not work. Other times, the system export method is to a USB thumb drive, but the thumb drive being used is incompatible with the DVR system. There are even DVRs which store the video on a remote server which cannot be accessed locally because the export and back up features are locked down, requiring the investigator to issue a subpoena. It's also common for the backup feature to export the native files, but the video player required to view its proprietary file format is unavailable, so research is required to track down the necessary viewer. In other cases, the export process adds a second level of compression during export, something which investigators may not even be aware is occurring.

Law enforcement personnel need to be prepared for all of these situations if they expect to quickly access video and walk away with a quality copy of this vital evidence.

A Solution

The Omnivore Field Kit solves these problems by providing a plug-and-play solution which captures high quality "uncompressed" video directly from the unit that recorded it by allowing investigators to connect directly to the video ports (VGA, DVI, HDMI, S-Video, and Composite) coming from the system.

The field kit setup is simple, using color-coded cables and a (laminated) setup field guide. You simply plug in the corresponding color-coded cable to match the video source, launch the Field Kit Viewer and click connect. The Field Kit Viewer auto-senses the video feed's attributes and opens to match its aspect ratio and dimensions. Investigators instantly have a direct video feed displayed on the field kit workstation – ready to obtain using the Omnivore capture software. Once you have acquired an uncompressed copy of the video, it can be previewed instantly to ensure you have what you need before saving.

Once saved, the video can instantly be shared with courts or district attorney's offices using the freely distributable Omnivore Viewer™ which reads the native uncompressed Omnivore files. The viewer software also enables users to export to common video and image formats – such as uncompressed QuickTime®, AVI, TIFF and BMP – for future processing and analysis, APBs, etc. If there is a need for a high quality, small file size, distribution format, you have the option to export to JPEG, QuickTime or WMV.

The Omnivore Field Kit includes a foam lined, impact protected devices case (14" x 10" x 2"); a compact cables kit; and a padded shoulder travel bag which fits both pieces and the mobile workstation (the complete kit weighs 20 pounds). The travel bag also includes a telescopic handle and wheels allowing it to be easily transported longer distances.

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and discord, as some critics don't like recognizable corporate landmark buildings being used in the design. Some have even compared the design of these graphics to the popular 1987 *RoboCop* movie, where policing in Detroit is turned over to a private corporation and the cruisers (ironically, Ford Tauruses) wear the corporate logo. Now, come on, people – let's get real. There are scores of Detroit's weary police force who will be thrilled to get new police cruisers and they could care less what the graphics are. These will replace aged, worn-out (and even some unsafe) police units which contribute to the Detroit Police Department (DPD) having some of the worst response times in America. Even Kid Rock (who still lives in Detroit) drives a cruiser better than most of Detroit's current fleet, as he has a taste for retired Crown Vics! It's time these critics recognize corporate Detroit's willingness to help out in this bankruptcy situation and find something better to bitch about.

THE "BIG THREE"

Speaking of the "Big Three," here's what's new for the 2014 models:

Chevrolet

The biggest and best news from Chevy is that they FINALLY have listened to consumers and moved the shift lever on the Caprice PPV from the floor to the column (which the new Dodges and Fords did from the get-go). The change will happen in the factory in Australia which will eliminate the detour to Kerr in Dallas where the floor shifters were modified. This will also make room for a new (preinstalled) console mounting platform which will aid equipment installations. A new instrument panel and gauge cluster adds to the new look of the interior.

The big news for the 2014 Caprice PPV is the relocation of the shifter from the center console to a column shift design.

Chevy has announced a number of additional improvements. Safety has been enhanced in the 9C1 by the use of newly designed front seat mounted, side pelvic air bags which work to reduce the risk of pelvic injury by up to 30 percent. Each air bag features an additional cell which inflates to a higher pressure to better distribute crash energy loads across the occupant's pelvic area as well as the chest. The front seats have also been redesigned for improved comfort and the safety belt receivers have been revised for easier buckling.

The front stabilizer bar is larger this year and

A new center console equipment mounting platform is standard on the PPV which serves as a heavy-duty foundation for mounting equipment.

new front struts enhance handling performance and reduce body roll when cornering. The 2014 model now also has (fuel saving) electric power steering. A remote vehicle starter with remote keyless entry is standard and trunk release buttons have been moved to both front doors. Also, for those of you who try to go unnoticed, a new surveillance mode allows cut off of lights for undercover work.

It is hoped that moving the gear selector and other changes will improve Caprice sales which industry insiders describe as "lackluster." Because the price of the Tahoe is so close to that of the Caprice, many GM loyal departments across the country have opted for the Tahoe. They site the higher stance, increased carrying capacity, proven reliability and high resale as factors. In fact, some "all Tahoe" departments in my area have requested emergency advance funds for the purchase of more Tahoes to add to their fleets because they fear the factory shutdown (as GM tools up for the re-designed 2015 Tahoe) will create a shortage and those changes will increase the prices of the new models. We're seeing a situation not unlike when departments (which could afford to) stockpiled 2011 Crown Vics.

Dodge

The Dodge Chargers have been huge sellers and are rapidly filling the void left by the demise of the Crown Vic. States, cities and counties are buying them in numbers which Chrysler hasn't seen since the 1982-1989 M Body Diplomats and Gran Furys. If the entertainment industry is any gauge,

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The Dodge Charger Pursuit's AWD system seamlessly transitions between RWD and AWD without driver intervention.

The 2014 Police Interceptor Sedan will also come standard with AWD.

the only police cars you see nowadays on TV or in the movies are Dodge Chargers. Product placement notwithstanding, the Mopars are certainly visible on the big and small screens and on the streets, too.

The scoop from Mopar is that AWD will be available on the new 5.7L HEMI® V-8 equipped models. This will be great news for the Western and Northern states.

Also new for the Charger Pursuit is an anti-theft feature, Secure Park (which comes standard). This system allows the vehicle to safely idle while being unoccupied.

The vehicle cannot be driven away without the vehicle key fob and without successfully disengaging the Secure Park feature.

Ford

The big news from Ford also involves AWD which will be standard on the Interceptor Sedan. AWD has been a popular feature of the Interceptor Utility and now sedan buyers can experience it as well. Unlike the Charger, which is born as a RWD, the Ford is a FWD and the transition to a FWD can be troublesome for some officers unfamiliar with FWD characteristics. The AWD should ease that transition. Ford's full-time AWD continually adjusts torque between the front and rear ends, resulting in a car which is easier to drive in all kinds of road conditions.

Ford is also rolling out an exclusive optional feature for the 2014 Interceptor which provides surveillance for the rear of the vehicle. Using existing camera and sensor technology, the "Anti-Sneaker Safety System" monitors movement behind the stopped/parked vehicle and alerts to any movement from someone trying to surreptitiously sneak up on an officer who is unaware of his/her

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NEWS

Bill Bratton to Launch BlueLine, "Facebook for Cops"

Reuters is reporting that Bill Bratton, the high profile police commissioner who has run three of America's largest police forces, is preparing to launch the first comprehensive social media network for police officers – a kind of Facebook for cops.

According to the news report, the network, named BlueLine, will be launched at the International Association of Police Chiefs annual conference in Philadelphia in October.

Bratton is the CEO and cofounder of Bratton Technologies. He has served as Boston Police Commissioner, Commissioner of the New York Police Department, and Chief of the Los Angeles Police Department. During this time, he has been a leading catalyst of policing innovation, including COMPSTAT, Real-Time Crime Analysis, and the introduction of Fusion Centers.

BlueLine combines many popular user functions found on leading social media sites, and is being billed by Bratton as the first secure network for cops. It's also a safer alternative for the younger generation of police officers who Bratton says share a disturbing amount of personal information on public networks.

For more information, visit **http://www.brattontech.com/index.html**.

presence. Officers will be able to switch off this feature in crowded urban areas.

Recycled Cruisers

Most of us remember the demise of the fabulous 1992-1996 Chevy Caprice 9C1, the Impala SS in wolf's clothing, and the cottage industry which sprung up following that fateful decision by GM. Several shops across the U.S. initiated new programs which rebuilt/renovated/recycled/refurbished/reconditioned departments' used Caprices to extend their lives another 100K or so. Most of these were GM dealerships and they used GM crate engines and factory rebuilt transmissions, thereby providing factory warranties. These shops also rebuilt suspensions and seats and installed new brakes, tires, hoses and anything else the vehicles needed. The result was "like new" units which sat higher and ran better than the originals.

Now, with the death of the popular Crown Victoria Police Interceptor (CVPI), we're seeing a resurgence in these operations, only now for the CVPI. We lumped five words which start with "re" together in the second sentence above which seem to be used interchangeably when businesses describe their services, so be alert and do your research. Regardless of the term used, there are two different, but similar, procedures these shops perform. Most of the large used police car operations perform routine maintenance before selling a cruiser. They may even upgrade these services and,

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in addition to changing fluids and filters, they will replace belts, brakes, batteries and tires. The bulk of these businesses are prepping cars of their own for resale, but this is something a competent local garage can do for you as well.

Completely rebuilding the unit is another matter and best left to a Ford specialist who can access crate engines with warranties. These companies go over the car from bumper to bumper and replace shocks, struts, mufflers and cats, restore interiors and can even repaint your car. Frequently, they also sell turnkey, warrantied, low mileage units which have been completely rebuilt. Some even add performance upgrades, available from Ford, such as cold air intake systems.

So, if you're wanting to extend the life of your Ford cruisers, or are looking for additional CVPI units to expand your fleet, contact one of the several providers around the country. Ask what services are provided, the cost, and inquire about warranties. Lastly, ask for referrals from previous customers which businesses should be happy to provide. *Note: Instead of inadvertently omitting some of these companies, we have opted not to list any of them, but you'll find them with a simple Internet search, as they are located throughout the U.S. – just search for "reconditioned police cars."*

NEW PRODUCTS

American emergency equipment manufacturers continue to think outside the box by developing smaller, brighter and more efficient lighting; other high-tech devices; and products designed to

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Code 3®'s new remote control system for emergency vehicles – vLink™ – is surprisingly affordable.

make your officers' jobs easier, safer and more efficient. Following are examples of these latest and greatest innovations.

Code 3®, Inc.

Code 3 has announced what might be the most exciting news of this year, the vLink™ Remote Vehicle Connectivity via Smartphone Access. That's a huge mouthful to tell you that your officers will now be able to remotely control everything your car does from up to 300 feet away with their smartphone! This includes the emergency lights and siren, as well as video cameras and factory equipment, such as power trunk, door locks and remote start. Code 3 calls this product "game changing" and we certainly agree. Officer safety is multiplied many times by this technology which comes with a quick start guide (which assists with installation). Just a few applications of this technology include enabling remote control of traffic flow; signaling for help and/or distracting a suspect; adjusting scene lighting without leaving a victim or suspect unattended; and allowing access to backup units.

Not only is this easy to install and easy to use, but the best news is that this technology is available right now for less than the cost of three tanks of gas. Better yet, vLink has been designed to work with all light and siren systems.

Code 3, somewhere Dick Tracy salutes you!

Setina Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Setina recently announced their new Thermoplastic PolyOlefin (TPO) Prisoner Seating Systems for the popular police sedans and SUVs. These innovative seats are easily installed with a precision fit over the vehicle's existing rear seat. Not only is installation a breeze, but departments no longer have to remove and store the factory seats. For large fleets, this has become a huge problem and, many times, the original seats are lost or damaged, resulting in diminished resale values because of a missing rear seat.

The advanced design also provides the ability to retain the factory seat belt location or to change the safety belt location to latch onto the outside using factory seat belts, a great assist when loading arrests, particularly the unruly types. The TPO seat and floor pan covers and saves the factory seat and is superior for contraband control and easy biohazard clean up.

The new TPO seating systems from Setina Mfg. feature a precision fit right over your vehicle's existing rear seat.

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Whelen's new multilevel lightbar features new "rotating" light modules with no moving parts or motors.

Whelen Engineering Co., Inc.

Whelen has a couple of new lightbars they are justifiably proud of, both featuring Super-LED® technology.

The first lightbar will harken seasoned readers back to the distant past in emergency lighting; however, officers with less than 15 years of experience won't even know what we're talking about. Of course, we're referring to the rotating lights found in dozens of different lightbars years ago and, before that, in single, double and quad bulb "gum ball" lights. Knowing there is no greater attention getter than a revolving beacon, Whelen has successfully merged old and new technologies in their new Delta Rota-Beam™ Series of lightbars. Two to six light pods, or modules, are housed in clear polycarbonate outer domes and are available in four colors, either solid or split. In operation, you will swear you're seeing a really bright old-fashioned rotating light, but, in reality, there are no moving parts and no motors to wear out. In a dizzying array of 32 different patterns, the LEDs travel around the modules, creating the illusion of a rotating bulb or bulbs. Of course, these are about a zillion times brighter than the old halogen bulbs and use a fraction of the power. There is a nice variety of other optional features which can be built into the bars, but, for a really outstanding new lightbar, look no further than Rota-Beam (but, don't look without sunglasses!).

Whelen's other new lightbar is a more traditional low profile LED lightbar from the Linear-LED line, consisting of the Liberty and Freedom packages. The newest, the Freedom™ II FC Series, features two rows of LEDs sandwiched together which can operate together or separately and in either the same or different colors. This is accomplished with split color lightheads. This bar has extended corner modules, plus independent control

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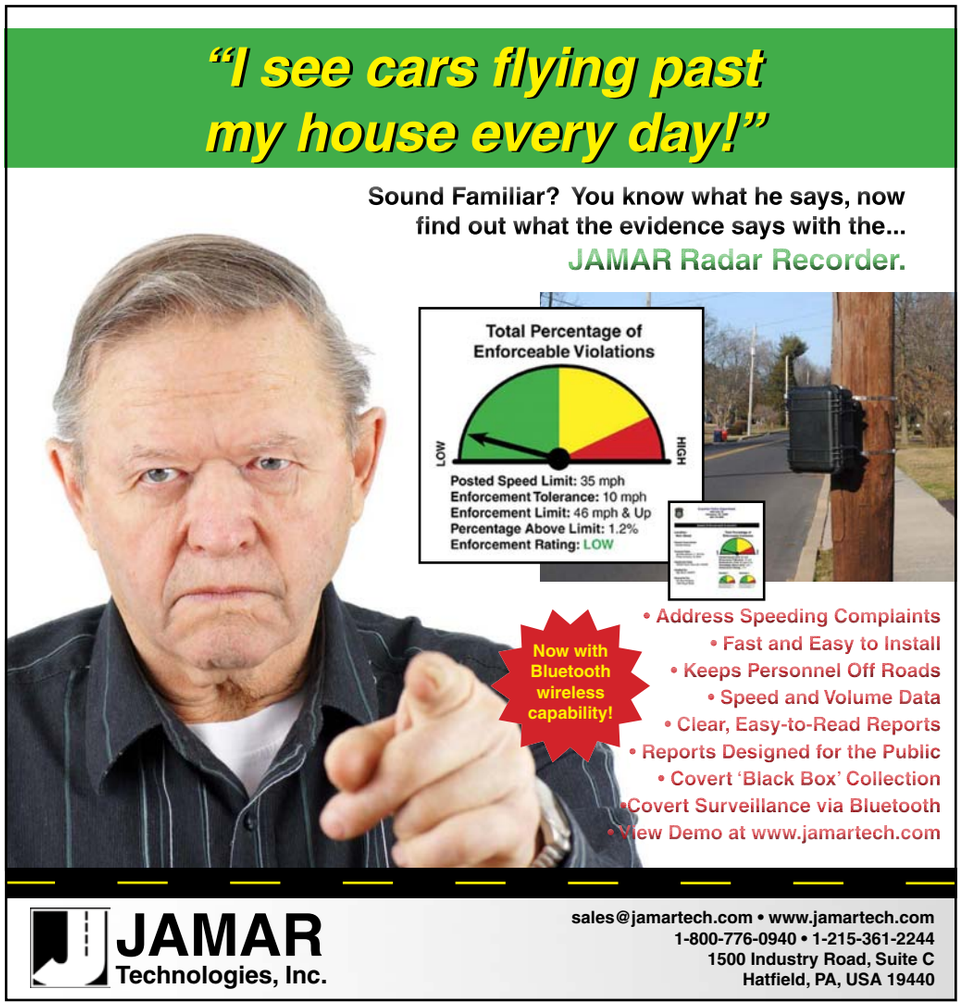
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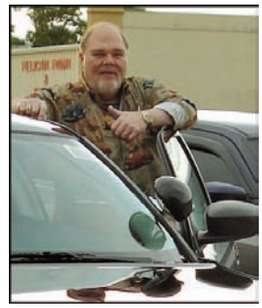
of the upper and lower levels of the lightheads and still draws 70% less amps than comparable strobe lightbars. Using a Whelen controller, the operator can activate Scan-Lock which allows toggling through the multiple flash patterns.

That's it for our summer break issue; we'll see you around the bend.

About the Author: James G. Post always appreciates your comments, complaints and praise. He can be reached at kopkars@rakansas.net



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NEWS

Nose Spray, Narcan®, Reverses Overdoses

As part of a pilot program, all first responders in Quincy, MA, carry the nasal drug, Narcan (naloxone hydrochloride). No needles are required. The magic marker-sized tube takes just a few seconds to assemble.

Veteran narcotics detective Patrick Glynn is overseeing a pilot program in Quincy which is the first police department in the nation to require every officer on patrol to carry nasal Narcan.

Narcan is a drug which reverses overdoses from opioids – heroin and painkillers derived from opium. It's been available to paramedics and doctors in hospital emergency rooms for three decades and, more recently, in an easier to use nasal spray.

"We changed our philosophy," Glynn said. "...we decided that we cannot arrest our way out of this epidemic."

Since the pilot program began in late 2010, Quincy police have applied Narcan 179 times and reversed overdoses 170 times, a 95 percent success rate. Five people were already dead when police arrived, while the Narcan had no effect on four people who had consumed other substances. Narcan works only on opioids.

The complete report can be found at **http://tinyurl.com/k5292jf**.

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Bill Siuru, Ph.D., PE

In the mid-1960s, work began on using computers to recognize human faces. Since that time, facial recognition technology has come a long way.

The New York Police Department didn't have much to go on to catch someone responsible for several cab robberies in the Bronx until a photo of the suspect was retrieved from a dashboard camera in a cab during a robbery. Detectives sent the photo to the NYPD's Facial Recognition Unit where it was scanned with facial recognition software and compared with the department's mug shot database. Within hours, they had a possible match, an ex-con with a long rap sheet.

Getting Better

While the facial recognition software is still being developed, it has already proved to be a useful investigation tool. The NYPD has used it to analyze a couple of thousand images with about 400 matches, resulting in well over 100 arrests.

Facial recognition is revolutionizing criminal investigations, like fingerprints did several generations ago. However, it is still not the positive means of identification like a matchup of fingerprints. Facial recognition matches are not legally considered "probable cause" to make an arrest. However, matches provide leads to possible suspects or to traditional mug shots of likely suspects to show victims. Facial recognition technology can save much time and potentially dangerous investigative legwork.

Today, surveillance cameras are everywhere and just about everyone has a phone or tablet which can take pictures. With futuristic devices like

Facial recognition software extracts data on the size and shape of eyes, noses, cheekbones and jaws in photos to find a match.

Google Glasses, you could be able to photograph people with the blink of an eye. Likewise, facial recognition programs, a biometric identification technology, are also readily available and already do a good job in matching photos with those in a database.

Basically, facial recognition software extracts data on the size and shape of eyes, noses, cheekbones and jaws in photos to find a match. Super resolution and image enhancement techniques are also often used on less than ideal images for matches. The software can use the facial data to create a 3-D model which can be rotated into a front facing image used to compare with a database of faces.

Current Capability

Facial recognition capabilities are embedded in social networking applications like Facebook and photo editing programs like Photoshop® Elements. Facebook's Tag Suggestions helps connect you with "friends" and Photoshop's app quickly identifies all photos in albums containing a tagged face. Surprisingly, facial recognition search engines used by social networks like Facebook can be as reliable and accurate as some specialist systems sold to government agencies.

With surveillance cameras everywhere, it's getting much easier to obtain photos of suspects involved in criminal activity.

Surveillance video camera and cell phone images were available in the recent Boston Marathon bombing. However, facial recognition technology did not identify the two bombing suspects – even though both Tsarnaev brothers' images exist in

The facial recognition technology used in social networks like Facebook is quite good in making matches.

official databases since Dzhokhar had a Massachusetts driver's license; the brothers had legally immigrated; and Tamerlan had been the subject of an FBI investigation. The problem was that the image of Dzokhar was so small that the technology used could not handle the low resolution image, so there was insufficient facial information.

Some algorithms are better suited than others for face recognition. Researchers at Michigan State University, using the latest in automatic facial recognition technology, were able to quickly identify Tsarnaev with high certainty from a law enforcement video. The other suspect, Tamerlan, who was killed in the shootout with police, could not be confidently

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identified partly because he was wearing sunglasses. According to the researchers, under controlled conditions, when the face is angled toward the camera and if the lighting is good, this technology can be up to 99% accurate. Also, work is underway to make identification possible even if the person is wearing a disguise or has grown a beard.

This shows that facial recognition is still a work in progress. For example, it can have limited utility with grainy, low resolution images captured at a distance from a cell phone camera or if a surveillance video is compared with known, high quality images such as mug shots. The best results occur when images submitted are reasonably clear and primarily taken straight on.

Social Media

Face recognition can also be used with photos on social networks like Facebook. In a recent street robbery, a woman reported her jewelry was stolen by her friend's boyfriend. She did not know his name, only that he was likely in photos on his girlfriend's Facebook page. The suspect's Facebook photo was run through the NYPD's Facial Recognition Unit to put a face to a name. The NYPD has even developed methods to match forensic facial sketches with mug shots, as well as technology to identify suspects through tattoo matching.

Today, most facial recognition comparisons are made against mug shots.

The FBI's facial recognition project called Universal Face Workstation (UFW) is being made available to local law enforcement agencies across the U.S. It is part of a one billion dollar FBI biometrics program called Next Generation Identification which is also creating databases for scars and tattoos. Police will be able to use the UFW program which grants access to a central database of about 13 million images. Police departments will also be able to submit and enhance their own image files to be cross-referenced with existing images in the database to identify matches. Full operational capability for facial recognition is scheduled for summer 2014.

Privacy Concerns

Amid concerns about privacy surrounding facial recognition, the FBI says facial recognition is only being used to supplement current biometrics, such as fingerprinting, to identify criminals.

Photos obtained from social networking sites, surveillance cameras and similar sources are not part of the national repository used for comparison.

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Searches are made only of mug shots taken during a criminal booking.

Law enforcement in Florida is starting to use facial recognition software developed by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office which is free to law enforcement agencies. This system is a bit controversial because law enforcement can search through the database of drivers' license photos and obtain matches of people who have never been accused of a crime.

Privacy could be a major issue with using facial recognition by law enforcement which will have to be ultimately resolved by the courts. Today, depending on the state, there are laws limiting the recording of a person's conversation. Could there be similar laws limiting the recording of their faces? PSN

About the Author: Bill Siuru is a retired USAF colonel. He has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Arizona State University. His military assignments included teaching engineering at West Point, commander of the research laboratory at the U.S. Air Force Academy and Director of Engineering at Wright-Patterson AFB. For the past 35 years, he has been writing about automotive, aviation and technology subjects.

Chicago Police Department Utilizing Facial Recognition Software

Chicago investigators are using a new integrated facial recognition software called NeoFace®, from NEC Corporation of America. The *Chicago Sun-Times* reports it could be potentially effective in Chicago, with 24,000 surveillance cameras tied into the city's computer network.

According to the report, the NeoFace technology allows for a match even when part of the subject's face might be hidden by a hat or sunglasses – or the subject's head is turned.

At its core, the NEC NeoFace Product Suite uses advanced facial processing and matching algorithms which have achieved the highest ranking in 2010 accuracy tests conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

NEC's NeoFace facial recognition Product Suite includes the following solutions:

• NeoFace Reveal – Dedicated for forensic application, NeoFace Reveal is a software application designed for solving crimes using facial recognition technology. NeoFace Reveal allows for capture of "latent face," either from photographs or crime scene videos. Latent faces are collected, enhanced and encoded for search against a facial gallery and user-friendly applications are available for side-by-side viewing and verification.

• NeoFace Watch – Designed for operational security users, NeoFace Watch integrates with existing video surveillance systems, enhancing security by extracting faces in real time from surveillance – or, even, Web cameras – and instantaneously matching them against a watch list of individuals.

• NeoFace Smart ID – Intended for field operations, NeoFace Smart ID is a smartphone- and tablet-based solution which enables collection and identification of fingerprint, face, voice, demographic and other source data. NeoFace Smart ID can also be configured for submittal to a central database or with a local facial watch list, allowing for on the spot identification prior to a remote database search.

• NeoFace Match – Available to third-party system integrators as an "appliance" for integration in facial recognition solutions or existing identification systems, NeoFace Match includes NEC's core facial recognition capabilities, such as image processing, face detection, quality assessment, template encoding and matching.

For further information, go to **http://www.necam.com/Biometrics**.

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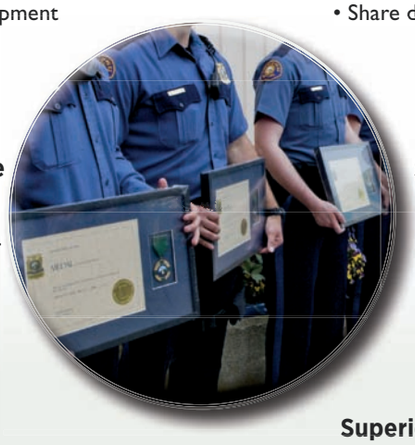

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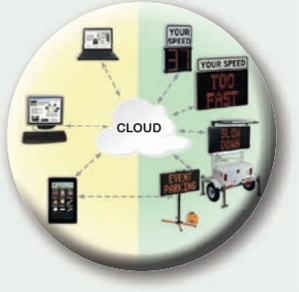

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License Plate Reader Technology Is a Hit with Law Enforcement

Rebecca Kanable

More and more police agencies are turning to Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technologies for help.

This summer, the West Virginia State Police used a license plate reader to capture a fugitive wanted in Pennsylvania on a homicide charge. In Arizona, license plate recognition data, in part, helped connect the killer of a Maricopa County deputy sheriff to a double homicide.

ALPR systems automatically capture an image of a vehicle's license plate; transform the image into alphanumeric characters; compare the plate number acquired to one or more databases of vehicles of interest; and alert an officer when a vehicle of interest has been observed. All that is done within a matter of seconds. ALPR systems are able to capture up to 1,800 plates per minute at speeds of up to 120-160 miles per hour, according to information retrieved from ELSAG North America, 3M Public Safety (formerly PIPS Technology) and Vigilant Solutions (formerly Vigilant Video) Web sites in 2012.

ALPR systems are capable of capturing up to 1,800 plates per minute at high speeds.

An International Association of Chiefs of Police project, supported by a National Institute of Justice grant, assessed ALPR implementation in order to provide operational and policy guidance to the field. The findings were published in 2012 in *Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Systems: Policy and Operational Guidance for Law Enforcement*, written by David J. Roberts and Meghann Casanova. (**http://tinyurl.com/p86u76m**)

In the executive summary, they conclude, "...realizing the core business values that ALPR promises...can only be achieved through proper planning, implementation, training, deployment, use, and management of the technology and the information it provides. Like all tools and technologies available to law enforcement, ALPR must also be carefully managed..."

ALPR in Use

To identify emerging implementation practices and provide operational and policy guidance to the field, IACP researchers in 2009 surveyed a random sample of 444 local, state and tribal law enforcement agencies. Of those, 305 agencies responded to the initial survey (68.7%); 77% indicated that they were not using ALPR and 23% responded that they were using ALPR.

A longer, more detailed survey was then sent to the 70 agencies using ALPR and, of those agencies, 57.1% responded. Survey respondents had typically implemented mobile ALPR systems (95%) and were primarily using ALPR for auto theft (69%); vehicle and traffic enforcement (28%); and investigations (25%).

Agencies reported increases in stolen vehicle recoveries (68%), arrests (55%), and productivity (50%).

The 2007 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey indicates that, as of September 30, 2007, nearly half (48%) of the

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A survey conducted by IACP researchers indicated that the majority of agencies were using ALPR technology primarily for auto theft investigation.

largest law enforcement agencies (those with 1,001 or more sworn officers) were regularly using ALPR, as were nearly one third (32%) of agencies with 500-1,000 sworn officers. In contrast, none of the smallest agencies (those with fewer than 50 sworn officers) reported regularly using ALPR and only nine percent of agencies with 51-100 officers were using it.

More recently, a March 2011 Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) survey found 71% of more than 70 responding agencies use ALPRs. Eighty-five percent of agencies plan on acquiring or increasing their use of ALPRs over the next five years and expect that, by that time, the devices will be deployed in 25% of cars (on average). PERF talks about ALPR in "How Are Innovations in Technology Transforming Policing?" – part of its Critical Issues in Policing Series (**http://tinyurl.com/cfrwy5n**).

ALPR Policies

How many agencies have ALPR technology policies? According to the IACP report, fewer than half (48%) have developed ALPR policies.

What should policies include? The IACP report offers these guidelines: policies should define the strategic objectives of an agency's program; training requirements; deployment options; operating procedures; hot list management; proper use and maintenance of the technology; and data collection, retention, sharing, and access.

Agency policies typically define the ALPR system and its data as "for official use only" (FOUO); restrict and audit queries of the ALPR dataset; and require that all operators of the equipment receive proper training before use.

With regard to data retention practices, agencies varied substantially:

• Sixteen (40%) retain ALPR data for six months or less;

Fewer than half of the agencies utilizing ALPR technology have developed policies and procedures for proper use.

• Five (13%) indicated they retain ALPR data indefinitely; and

• Two indicated that retention is based on the storage capacity of the equipment installed.

ALPR Benefits

Law enforcement agencies around the world report substantial business and public safety benefits from ALPR. PERF and the Mesa, AZ, Police Department conducted a research study of the effectiveness of license plate readers.

PERF Research Director Christopher Koper

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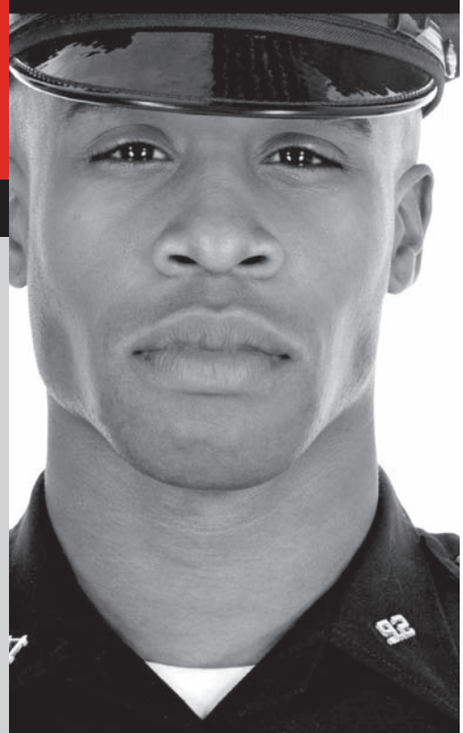

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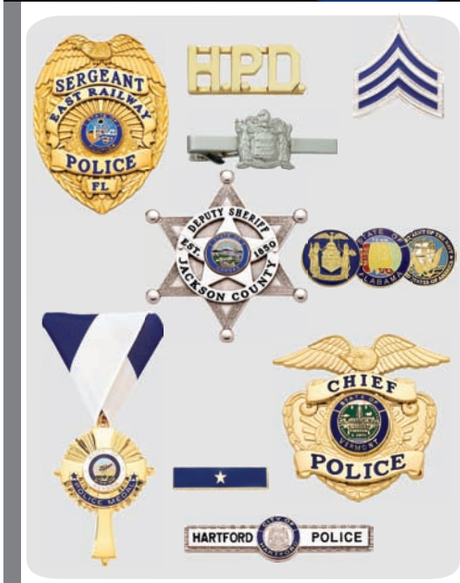

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Cameras in mobile ALPR systems are typically trunk mounted or integrated into a lightbar.

reports that ALPRs can help recover stolen vehicles and apprehend auto thieves and other wanted persons. They may also have benefits for officer safety because officers won't be distracted by entering license plate numbers into a computer while they're driving. ALPRs may also reduce concerns about racial profiling because they operate automatically to scan all vehicles within the range of the devices.

Evaluations of ALPR use have been quite limited, Koper said, and data suggests that police agencies will probably need a critical mass of ALPR use before they really start seeing crime reduction effects as a result of deterrence.

Most police agencies which have ALPRs have four of them, or fewer, he said. "I don't know what the threshold is, but I would urge departments to be realistic in their expectations if they are using a small number of the devices," Koper said. "We also recommend driving slowly when you're using the ALPR units around hot spots. This will optimize the number of plates read while deterring people by having a more visible presence in the area."

Looking at other agencies in its Critical Issues in Policing Series, PERF found:

• To increase its effectiveness, Cincinnati is helping to build a regional sharing system known as Southwest Ohio/Southeast Indiana/Northern Kentucky, or SOSINK (**http://www.sosink.net/**).

• Minneapolis had a domestic kidnapping case in which Metro Transit Police and the FBI were looking for a suspect vehicle and the only information they had was that it was a tan Suburban with "078" as part of the license plate. "We did a search on the license plate recognition database and came up with several vehicles. The closest match turned out to be the suspect vehicle," said Minneapolis Assistant Chief Janee Harteau.

• Chicago Commander Steven Caluris reported that Chicago has ALPR cameras in every patrol district and talked about investigative and intelligence benefits. "Consider the manpower hours used to canvass the scene of a homicide or an aggravated battery which is usually accomplished by assigning officers to collect license plates and information on nearby cars. Now, we can just send a car with ALPR up and down the block to capture it all."

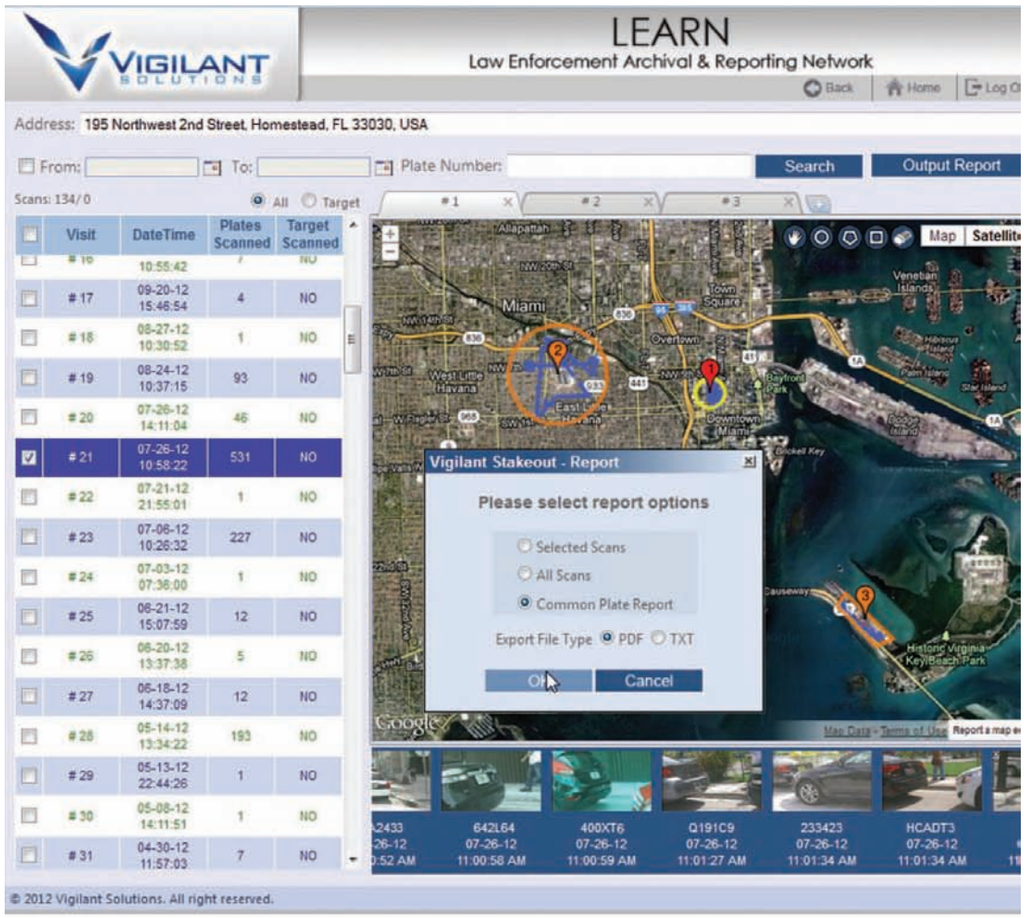
Policies and Privacy Provisions

PERF says general considerations about ALPR use include maintenance issues, privacy considerations associated with the use of the data, and community reaction to the program.

In Washington, DC, Assistant Chief Alfred Durham, said, "One of the privacy provisions that our city council put into the legislation for photo enforcement of traffic laws is a stipulation that you can only photograph the rear of the vehicle and the tag only." The idea is that there will be no facial features in the photo.

In Waco, TX, Assistant Chief Ryan Holt said the city council required a privacy policy be put in place before ALPRs could be used in the field. Holt said the agency follows the suggested guidelines from the state of Texas which dictate that information from technology like ALPRs isn't saved for more than 30 days unless it is related to a criminal investigation. There are some exceptions, such as the digital video footage from squad cars, which are held for 90 days.

Policies may vary, but the IACP advises, "They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must be developed and strictly enforced to ensure the quality of the data, the security of the system, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and the privacy of information gathered. Building robust auditing requirements into agency policies will help enforce proper use of the system and reassure the public that their privacy interests are recognized and respected."

Mobile ALPR System Considerations

Cameras in mobile ALPR systems are vehicle mounted and can be configured in a number of ways. Typically, the IACP report says, the processor is located in the vehicle trunk and data is processed locally. Cameras are hardwired or magnet mounted and can be integrated into the lightbar, mounted on the roof or trunk, or within covert housing.

Considerations for mobile systems include system portability, vehicle space availability, number of cameras, and data transfer.

ACLU: Police Need "Meaningful" ALPR Rules

The increased use of license plate reader technology has drawn the attention of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) which is concerned that few police departments have "meaningful rules" in place to protect drivers' privacy rights.

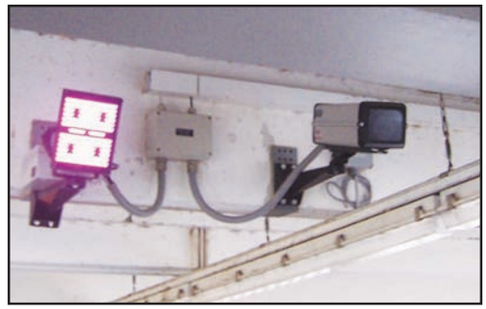
Last summer, ACLU affiliates in 38 states and Washington, DC, filed nearly 600 Freedom of Information requests asking federal, state and local agencies how they use the readers. The 26,000 pages of documents produced by the agencies which responded – about half – include training materials, internal memos, and policy statements.

According to the ACLU, the documents paint a picture of a technology which is becoming a tool for mass routine location tracking and surveillance and is deployed with too few rules.

As the technology spreads, the ACLU calls for the adoption of legislation and law enforcement agency policies adhering to the following principles:

- License plate readers may be used by law enforcement agencies only to investigate hits and in other circumstances in which law enforcement agents reasonably believe that the plate data are relevant to an ongoing criminal investigation.
- The government must not store data about innocent people for any lengthy period. Unless plate data has been flagged, retention periods should be measured in days or weeks, not months or years.
- People should be able to find out if plate data of vehicles registered to them are contained in a law enforcement agency's database.
- Law enforcement agencies should not share license plate reader data with third parties which do not follow proper retention and access principles. They should also be transparent regarding with whom they share license plate reader data.
- Any entity which uses license plate readers should be required to report its usage publicly on at least an annual basis.

The results, analysis and policy recommendations are detailed in *You Are Being Tracked: How License Plate Readers Are Being Used to Record Americans' Movements*, an ACLU report (**www.aclu.org/alpr**) published in July.



Considerations for fixed ALPR systems include existing physical infrastructure and site location, among others.

Fixed and Portable ALPR System Considerations

Considerations for fixed systems include existing physical infrastructure, site location, available power, available network infrastructure, number of cameras, and dispatch requirement.

ALPR Performance

How well an ALPR system can perform is based on capture efficacy, read accuracy, matching effectiveness, and capture/read factors.

Police agencies in the United States must deal with license plates from other states and countries. That can pose difficulties.

Responding to this issue, in April 2011, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators created the ALPR Working Group which published the *Best Practices Guide for Improving Automated License Plate Reader Effectiveness through Uniform License Plate Design and Manufacture* (**www.aamva.org/ALPR-WorkingGroup**/).

Looking at ALPR systems, the NIJ has started to develop a voluntary standard for ALPR systems used by U.S. law enforcement agencies. The NIJ reports hat the standard is being written by a Special Technical Committee of local, state, and federal law enforcement practitioners who have experience in deployment and use of ALPR systems, plus technical experts who have experience in testing and certification (**http://tinyurl.com/oxr8ptn**).

Improvements to both license plates and ALPR systems will encourage even more law enforcement agencies to use this technology.

About the Author: Rebecca Kanable is a freelance writer specializing in law enforcement topics. She can be reached at kanable@charter.net.

For more information, contact:

1. ELSAG North America
www.elsag.com
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2. 3M Public Safety
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Speed Measurement Equipment Testing: 2013

Carl Fors

This year's field test of speed enforcement equipment yielded a number of interesting results.

Speed Measurement Laboratories (SML) conducts annual field-testing of radar and LIDAR speed enforcement equipment, using certified police officers to evaluate the radar and laser guns it tests. SML also tests the equipment which detects the use of these devices; e.g. radar/laser detectors.

This year, we spent two days (June 28-29) in El Paso, TX, testing the newest radar and laser guns.

Only guns appearing on the current Conforming Product List (CPL) were used. Per our standard, we (once again) used certified officers from three different departments to operate radar and laser guns. We also had five members of the SML staff assisting, including two degreed engineers; one retired ICE officer; one president of a radar sign manufacturer; and one individual with over 30 years of experience.

A significant number of speeding tickets were dismissed after a Florida judge ruled that radar may provide inaccurate results.

Radar/Laser Gun Accuracy/Range

The necessity of testing and the development of performance standards came about as a result of *Florida v. Aguilera* in 1979. Known as the National Radar Trial, Judge Joseph Nesbit took the court "into the field" and observed a palm tree clocked by a police radar gun traveling at 86 mph. As a result, many speeding cases were dismissed based on this finding. The court ruled that (1) radar may deliver false readings; and (2) operator training is often inadequate and inappropriate. The ruling mandated that all radar guns be laboratory tested by the National Bureau of Standards, now the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and resulted in testing of radar by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to include development of a Consumer (Conforming) Products List of tested and approved police radar devices. Now, we have federal performance specifications for both radar and laser guns – DOT HS 809 812 for radar and DOT HS 809 811 for laser.

Depending on the state and/or local written policy, radar guns should be checked for accuracy with tuning forks on a daily basis. Before using any radar or laser gun, we tested them with tuning forks and a known distance/vertical/horizontal sight alignment test for laser guns. A log of the testing should be maintained by the officer; this is something commonly advised for in the operator's manuals of radar gun manufacturers. The manuals say periodic checks should be made of the radar/laser gun's accuracy, called a "Known Speed Test." This is done by having other officers approach the radar gun at a known speed, usually by putting the car in the cruise control mode. Recertification of the radar gun should always be performed by an identified recertification company and/or the manufacturer. This recertification period is dependent on the written policy of the local police agency.

Most manufacturers recommend a daily testing of radar guns and to document the results in a logbook.

Certified training of officers to operate police radar or laser guns varies widely. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) only has the power to recommend curriculum for training. Training is a state issue, according to the NHTSA; however, it is generally recommended that departments follow the standards of their state police organization.

Visual Identification

The best evidence in any radar/laser trial is the officer's observation of the suspect vehicle. This is called a "Valid Visual Tracking History." The officer must be able to estimate the speed of the vehicle, with radar/laser readings to confirm the officer's observation. This means that an officer must be able to visually identify specific vehicles – which is difficult, if not impossible, at distances greater than a quarter mile. This has been affirmed by many courts. In *The Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas, September 16, 2009*, the court said the officer's probable cause to make the traffic stop was based solely on the reading of the laser gun without a Valid Visual Tracking History and that the officer must have a Valid Visual Tracking History prior to the use of radar or laser gun speed readings. The case against the defendant was dismissed. It doesn't stop there. The Ohio Supreme Court in *Barberton v. Jenny*, 126 Ohio St.-3d 5, 2010-Ohio-2420, concluded that the "police officers unaided visual estimation of a vehicle's speed is sufficient evidence to support a conviction for speeding without independent verification [radar/laser speed reading] of the vehicle's speed." This state Supreme Court decision was quickly followed by a law emanating from the Ohio Senate allowing the use of radar and laser gun speed readings after a Valid Visual Tracking History was made by the officer.

In our research, we wanted to observe several things. What is the maximum range in the speed/distance setting of laser guns of the HHR approaching and receding from the laser guns? We also wanted to observe if radar and laser guns produced the same speed target on the same vehicle at 500 feet. Remember, the radar and laser guns were operated by certified police officers only. SML staff members were in the target vehicle to record the results. Results were also recorded in the transmit vehicle.

Speed Comparisons of Radar and Laser on Same Target Vehicle

A total of 100 comparisons were made using various laser guns which were compared to the speed shown by a Stalker II radar gun. Each comparison was comprised of 20 speed measurements. When the target vehicles approached the cone placed at 500 feet, the laser would fire. The radar remained constantly on, transmitting at 34.7 GHz. The laser guns we used were: Kustom ProLaser III, LTI TruSpeed® LR, LTI UltraLyte LR, Stalker LIDAR-XLR, and Digital Ally's Laser Ally™. All of these laser guns appear on the CPL listing of the International Association of Chiefs of Police/NHTSA as of June 11, 2013, and are all production models. Adjusted for cosine effect, not one target vehicle showed a target speed on the radar and on the laser gun within a difference of >2 mph (the maximum allowable is two mph in moving mode). In every instance of the 20 target vehicles,

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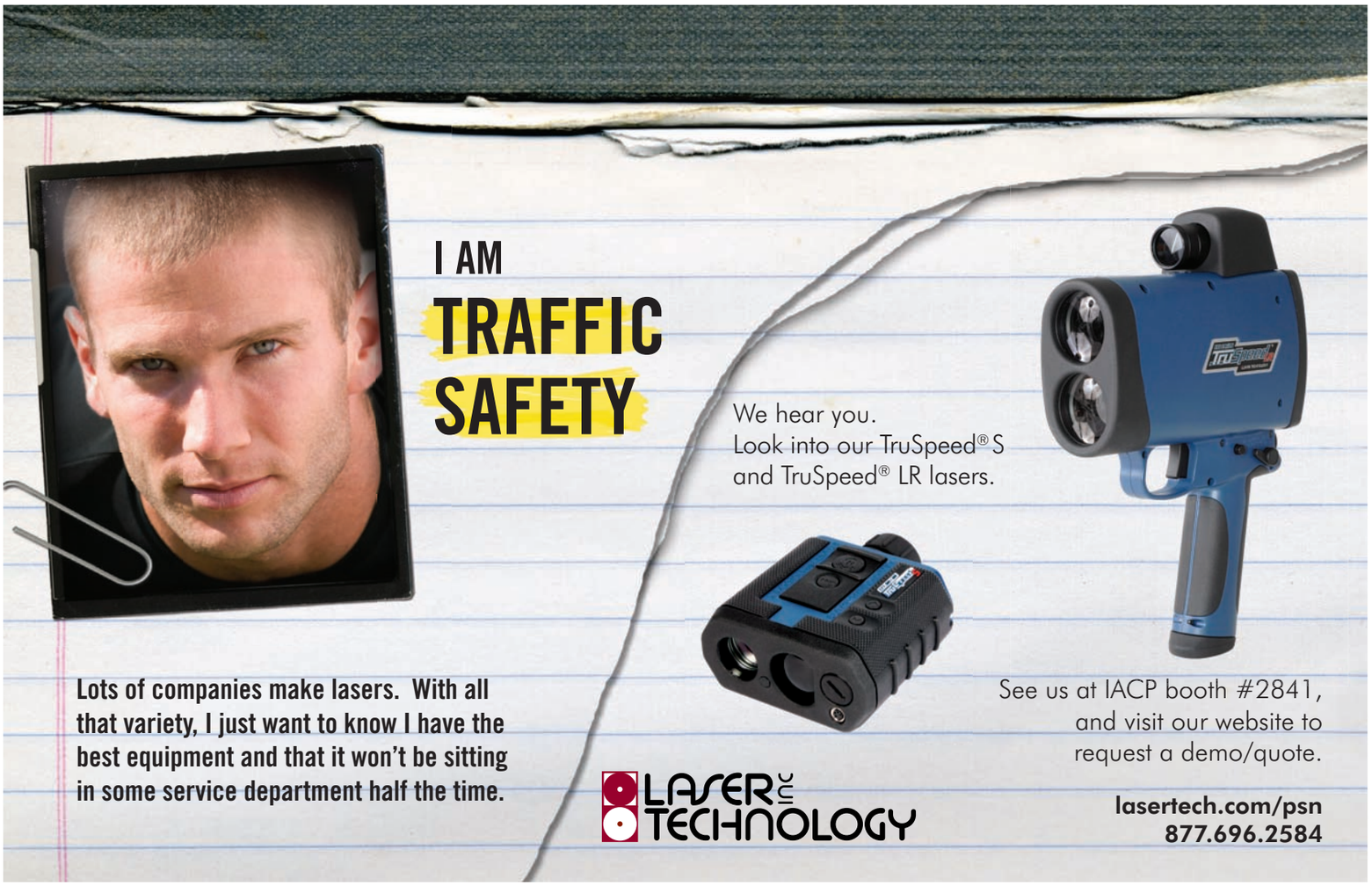
Laser guns were utilized both inside and outside the transmit vehicle for this test.

Laser Gun	IVA	OVA	% I-O	IVR	OVR	% I-O
Digital Ally's Laser Ally™	2,218 ft.	3,594 ft.	162%	3,690 ft.	5,796 ft.	157%
Kustom ProLaser 4	2,774 ft.	4,156 ft.	150%	3,627 ft.	5,086 ft.	140%
LTI TruSpeed® LR	907 ft.	2,861 ft.	315%	1,569 ft.	3,725 ft.	238%
Stalker LIDAR-XLR	2,789 ft.	4,386 ft.	157%	4,188 ft.	5,277 ft.	125%

the Kustom ProLaser III showed the same speed as the radar gun. All laser guns were operated in the speed/range mode.

Maximum Range of Police Laser Guns from Inside and Outside of Vehicle

For this test, we used laser guns inside and outside of the transmit vehicle. We targeted the approaching and receding vehicle five times in each category: Inside Vehicle Approaching (IVA); Outside Vehicle Approaching (OVA); Inside Vehicle Receding (IVR); and Outside Vehicle Receding (OVR). All lasers were set with Inclement Weather mode turned off. We wanted to see if 1) laser guns could be shot through the windshield; 2) if the direction of the vehicle mattered; and 3) how much distance was lost by shooting through the windshield. All too often, officers needlessly operate a laser gun with their door or windows open. Older laser guns could not shoot through the windshield; however, the new ones can! Once again, we used our white HHR test vehicle. The approaching test vehicle was easily targeted for distance by laser, as white is the most reflective color. The vehicle's rear is flat and the taillights contain reflectors which combined to create an excellent target. The test vehicle was driven toward the transmit vehicle at 30 mph from a cone placed at two miles. The HHR driver was instructed to zero his odometer at the transmit vehicle and drive away from the laser guns at 30 mph. When a distance was lost by the laser gun, the driver was told to stop. We measured his distance with lasers in the range mode, using the following laser guns: Kustom Signals' ProLaser 4; LTI's TruSpeed LR; Digital Ally's Laser Ally, and a Stalker LIDAR-XLR. "% I-O" means the percentage of improvement using laser outside the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vehicle; i.e., receding or approaching. Operating the laser outside the vehicle produced the greatest range; so did receding measurements. The figures are the average of five tries per category by each laser gun.

* Note: The operator's manual of the Kustom ProLaser 4 says, "Target Range – 8,000 feet maximum" – measuring in the speed/range mode for maximum range is blank. In the LTI UltraLyte® LR B operator's manual, it states "Maximum Range of 3,280 feet" with no mention of maximum in range/speed mode. In Digital Ally's operator's manual, there is no mention of maximum range; in the Stalker LIDAR-XLR operator's manual, a nominal range in speed mode is listed as "Normal 2,000 feet, Maximum > 4,000 feet" (> means greater than). We must understand that the laser guns were operated by certified police officers in this test and the average of readings reported was divided by five. The environment must be considered as, in West Texas, the humidity was less than 10% with no competing signals. As in all specifications, variances of performance of laser guns for potential locations must be considered as environments change. In Houston, with an average of 65% humidity, the results would be different. All laser guns appear on the June 11, 2013, CPL of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Your results will vary.

Do Laser Gun Detectors Work?

A separate evaluation was conducted to see if, when laser guns were pointed directly at a radar/laser detector, at what range they would report an alert. Laser guns come in three flavors, depending on the laser divergence, 3.5 milliradian, 3 milliradian, and 2.5 milliradian. This is infrared light transmitted at 904-905 nanometers. A laser's beam does not scatter like the microwave beam used by radar. It's invisible to the human eye much like your television remote control. For comparison, your TV remote transmits at 980 nanometers, while human vision is limited to 390-780 nanometers (a red laser pointer transmits at 640 nanometers). A three milliradian laser gun divergence is only 36 inches at 1,000 feet, compared to a K band radar gun with a beam divergence of 212 feet. From one mile, we aimed lasers in the direction of all of our radar/laser detectors and all of them alerted to laser. However, when we placed a moving target vehicle in front of a moving trailing vehicle with a detector from 500 feet in the same lane, no detector alerted to the laser's use. There was no advanced alert to laser! The officer targeted the license plate of the lead vehicle and the trailing vehicle had the assortment of radar/laser detectors attempting to alert to laser's transmission. We got a speed/distance reading with the laser gun on the target vehicle every time.

Why did this happen? It's simple physics – laser is pulsed infrared light. Its small beam can pinpoint one vehicle in a group and its emission does not scatter like radar. Remember, it's only 18 inches, a radius of nine inches at 500 feet. This held true in our evaluation. The aiming point of the laser was the license plate of the lead vehicle. The trailing vehicle containing the radar/laser detectors could not see it and warn of its use.

We used three of the new laser guns introduced at the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in October of 2012 in our testing of laser reception of detectors. The conclusion: Speeders have a faint chance of detecting police laser gun use.

*Note: The MPH Ranger EZ® radar system lets the officer know the range in yards of the most reflective vehicle and the faster vehicle. We applaud this development in radar guns as it lets the operator know if the suspect target vehicle is in the range of a Valid Visual Tracking History.

Radar/Laser Gun Stopwatch Modes

For our final test, we wanted to determine the accuracy of three prominent stopwatch modes from point A to point B. Most radar and laser guns have a stopwatch mode feature. The original VASCAR (Visual Average Speed Computer And Recorder) was introduced in 1968 by Federal Signal Corporation and it is still marketed by Traffic Safety Systems. Kustom Signals, Inc. has a similar product called Tracker. We wanted to see the difficulty of a police officer in observing a vehicle pass the cone at 528 feet and computing the speed by VASCAR, a radar gun (Stalker Dual), and a laser

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The last test involved comparing speeds computed by VASCAR, radar, and laser.

gun (Kustom Signals, Inc. ProLaser III).

The test vehicle was first instructed to set its cruise control at 30 mph and approach the cone set at 528 feet (1/10 of a mile) and start the devices. Officers would then guess when the target vehicle passed the cone. Several states and some jurisdictions do not allow the use of police radar and laser guns, so they opt to use VASCAR. It's simply a stopwatch from point to point converting the time into miles per hour. We then had the driver count down on the radio three, two, one, with "one" being at the cone. Then, the officers depressed their measure buttons on the three units. As the officers became accustomed to the devices, they became better. VASCAR is often used in conjunction with white lines painted across the highway for ground-based VASCAR readings or enforcement of speed from the air. The officers dramatically improved on the three systems when the target vehicle was told by radio that it passed the cone. To back up our measurements, we had a laser gun in the speed/range setting to ascertain the correct speed of the target vehicle. In one case, without the radio announcement, the radar gun showed 40 mph, the laser gun displayed 38 mph, and the VASCAR unit related 37.7 mph. This is quite a difference in speed by the three units.

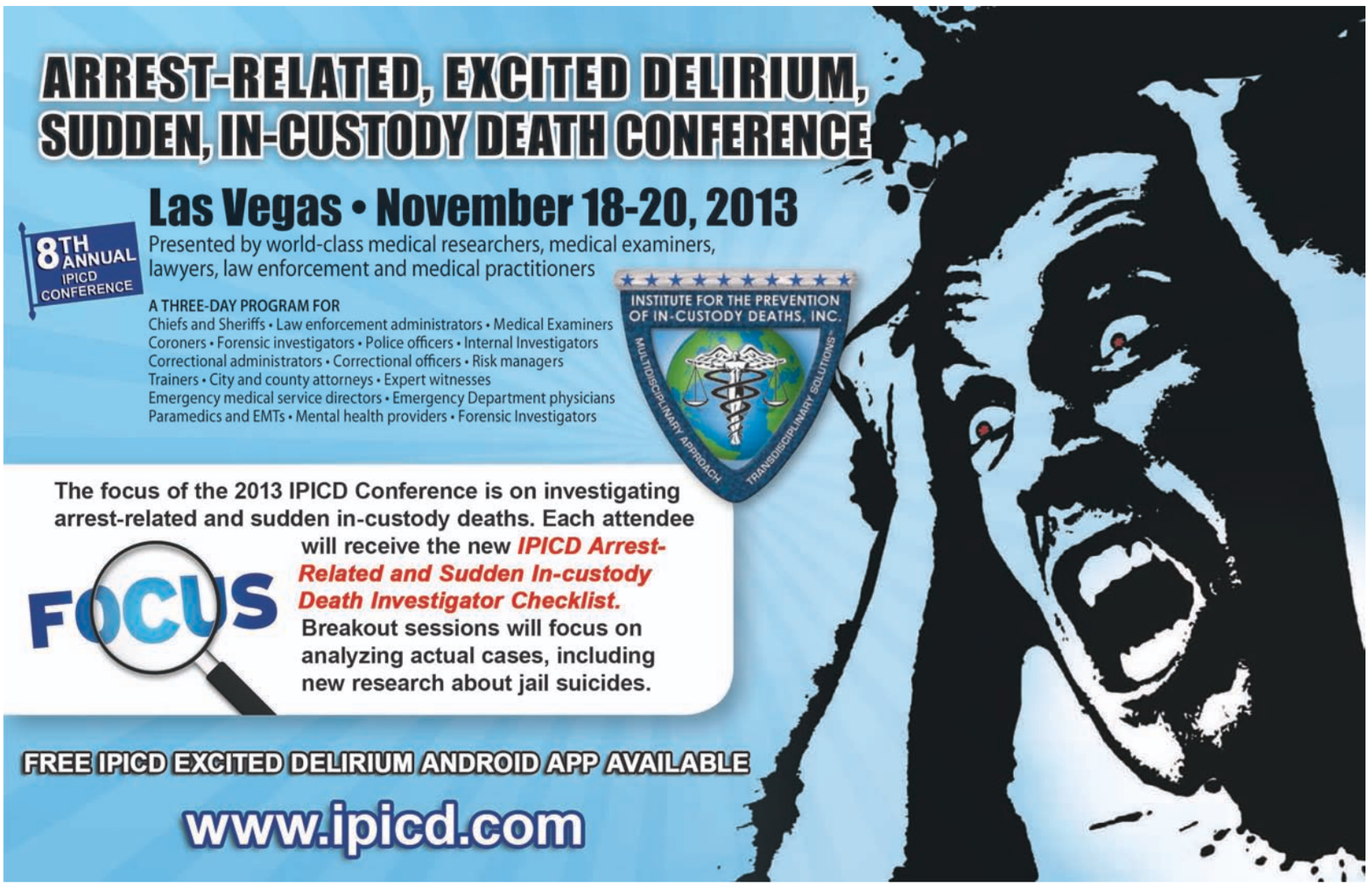
This test highlights how difficult it is for the officer to visually estimate when a vehicle reaches a start point. In many occasions, the officer would look at the shadow of the vehicle at the start point. The end point was as the vehicle passed the transmit vehicle. Radar and laser guns were not transmitting only using their stopwatch modes. Of the 20 runs, only two times did all three devices show the same speed.

We had to be careful of the operating temperatures of the radar and laser guns. In most operator's manuals of radar and laser guns in their specifications section, a recommended operating range from -22˚ F to +140˚ F is itemized. In West Texas, it is hot and, in some cases, dashboard temperatures exceed 160˚ F.

Until Next Time...

Please use our E-mail, speed@speedinglimits.com, for questions or comments. To all, including our loyal staff and cooperative police agencies, we thank you for your solid, professional support.

About the Author: Carl Fors is President of Fort Worth, TX-based Speed Measurement Laboratories Inc. and has over 25 years of experience developing and testing highway safety devices, including radar and laser speed assessment systems. He has been published over 50 times and teaches NHTSA compliant radar and laser certification courses at law enforcement agencies in the US and abroad. He serves federal, state, and local courts as a recognized "expert witness" in radar and laser trials.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Mike Boyle

One of the bigger challenges faced by a law enforcement firearms instructor is creating an element of realism in the training environment.

Without this vital quality, a day at the range is just another administrative hoop to jump through as officers fail to make the connection between the exercises performed and the harsh reality of applying deadly force.

Sadly, a great many agencies merely have their officers qualify for the record and the training value of many drills designed to assess officer proficiency is questionable at best. The focus has become administrative survival rather than the acquisition and maintenance of skills to better prepare the officer for the street. Often, this seed is planted at the academy where officers are denied the opportunity to take their skills to the next level and become truly proficient. Standards are "dumbed down" and, as long as trainees can meet the minimum marksmanship level, there is no need to push any harder.

This "anatomy" target highlights vital areas and promotes better feedback on hit value.

There are, of course, progressive instructors who are not willing to accept mediocrity. They have created challenging courses of fire which take shooters out of their comfort zone, requiring a fast and accurate response to a simulated threat. Compressed time frames, poor light, multiple threats, movement, as well as realistic targets, are incorporated into their training scenarios.

Most of us can appreciate the fact that training officers to become better gun handlers and shooters enhances their chance of meeting with success in a deadly confrontation. But, do targets really matter? Absolutely! Any tool which makes a trainee push just a little harder to achieve success is a plus in my book.

Compared to other technologies, targets made of paper or steel are a real bargain. Combined with a little creative thinking, well designed targets help reinforce good shooting tactics.

Old School

The first targets utilized for law enforcement firearms training were simple bull's-eye. This style of target was used almost exclusively for what little firearms training was offered in the early part of the 20th century and remained in wide use for years.

In the l930s, more realistic courses of fire were developed, along with the first "humanoid" targets. The most popular evolved into the classic B-21

The classic B-21 was an innovation in its day, but has overly optimistic scoring values.

which is widely utilized today. This target consists of a large, full-size silhouette with valued scoring areas. For example, a hit in the chest would have a value of five points, while one in the left arm would score only two points. As an interesting footnote, the B-21 also features "D" values, where a hit in the right arm might disable an assailant. This thought process is a holdover from an earlier era of time and is no longer consistent with contemporary law on the use of deadly force.

For any number of reasons, the classic B-21 has fallen from favor. Its very large K5 scoring area gives the shooter the same point value for a hit to the low abdomen as to one in the center chest. Should you pull a shot left one foot and miss center mass, you still may get lucky and scratch out three points with a hit in the right arm. In its day, the B-21 was cutting edge, but far better designs for training and qualification have come along.

Back in the l960s, the NYPD Firearms Training Unit introduced the innovative "thug" target. Rather than a black silhouette, this target featured the drawn image of a man pointing a gun, a not so subtle reminder of why the officer is justified to fire. The B-60 "thug" target bears the facial image of NYPD Lt. Jesse Oldshien who holds the distinction of being the "most shot at cop in history," as this target has been in use since the 1960s. While not perfect, the B-60 served as the springboard for even better pictorial targets which denote both shoot and don't shoot situations.

Not all bad guys are fully exposed – a thug behind a wall demands more precise shot placement.

Every Picture Tells a Story

Today, there are hundreds of different styles of targets available for police training and qualification. Targets commonly utilized for marksmanship assessment and qualification include classics such as the B-21 and B-27, the Transtar II and the FBI "Q." Dozens of variations – relative to size, color and high value hit zones – exist for all the aforementioned targets.

We can also draw on a huge assortment of pictorial targets which use either a sketched or photographic image. These targets could include hostile or nonhostile subjects, partially exposed subjects, or hostage situations. Conventional scoring rings may be incorporated into target design or even on an anatomy overlay which gives the shooter a greater insight as to what he (or she) is really hitting.

Better paper targets also feature a realistic-sized, high value incapacitation zone. Unlike the old school targets with their overly optimistic high value areas, the DST series from Law Enforcement Targets requires the shooter to fire with a degree of precision. These targets are designed as a progressive series and include a cardboard silhouette; a colored face with numerically valued hit zones; and various pictorial targets which might be bladed or positioned behind cover. All targets feature a Primary Neutralization Zone (PNZ) which becomes significantly harder to hit when the simulated threat is no longer square to the shooter or only partially exposed. This isn't much different than real life.

Same Effort, More Reward

Many jurisdictions mandate a specific target for police qualification and my state is no exception. In our little part of the world, the FBI "Q" target is the standard which is both a good news/bad news

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Pictorial targets can bring a small dose of reality to training.

proposition. Scoring is indeed a snap and any hit within the border counts full value. This, unfortunately, gives the shooter an inflated idea of marksmanship capabilities. Since its R2-D2 appearance lacks any human qualities, I'm not especially thrilled using the "Q" target for the complete training experience.

To satisfy my own curiosity, I recently created a laminated target consisting of an FBI "'Q" on top, followed by a B-21, Transtar II, and a B-60. Caution was used to ensure that the high value zones of each target were lined up with the others as they were affixed to the backer.

I then had a skilled shooter of my acquaintance run through a standard police qualification course which included firing at distances from one to 25 yards. Since I knew our test pilot could easily score a possible 100%, I had him shoot the entire drill left-handed and at double speed. This would yield a decent, but less than perfect, score to compare the different targets.

Once the smoke cleared, I was able to record the following results:

FBI "Q" 92%
B-21 ..... 84%
Transtar II 88%
B-60 ..... 86%

While hardly conclusive, this little bit of weird science confirmed my suspicions. With an

Note the high value Primary Neutralization Zone on the DST-1.

FBI Taps Hacker Tactics to Spy on Suspects

NEWS

Law enforcement officials in the U.S. are broadening the use of tools commonly utilized by hackers to gather information on suspects, bringing the criminal wiretap into the cyber age, reports *The Wall Street Journal*.

Federal agencies have mostly been silent about these capabilities, the newspaper reports, but court documents and interviews with people involved in the programs provide new details about the hacking tools, including spyware delivered to computers and phones through E-mail or Web links - techniques more commonly associated with criminal computer attacks.

The use of hacking tools under court orders has increased as investigators strive to keep up with suspects who utilize new communications technologies, including certain types of online chat and encryption tools.

The FBI creates some of their hacking tools "in-house" and purchases others from the private sector.

You can read the complete report at **http://tinyurl.com/k4o4et9**.

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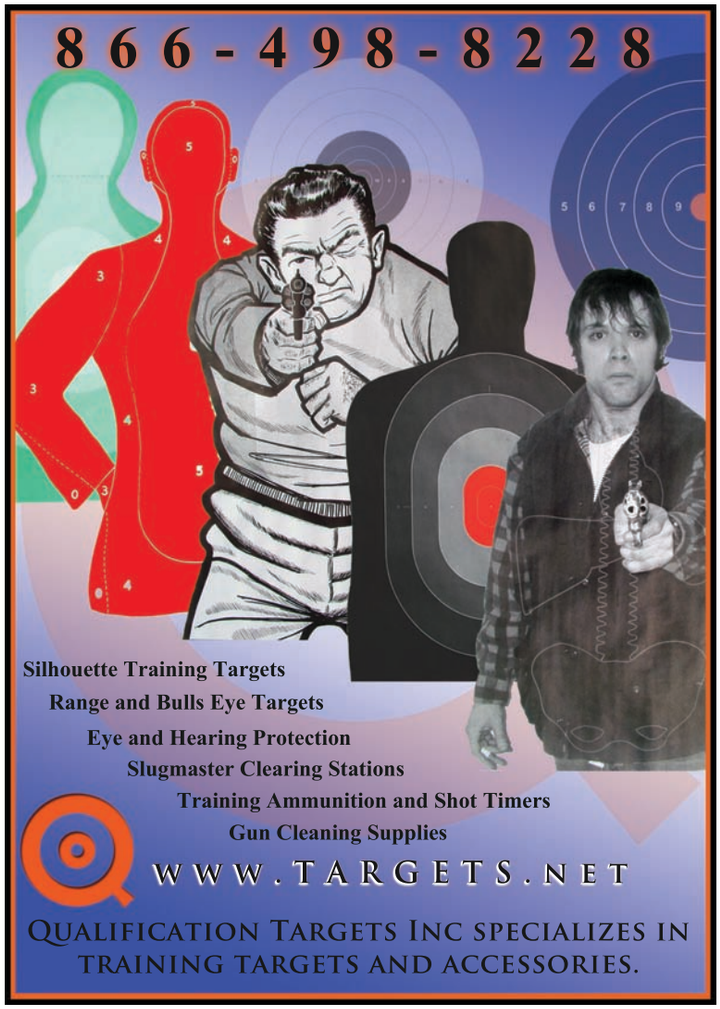


Circle 5102 for More Information

Circle 5103 for More Information

"Tactical Ted" can be dressed up in a shirt and pants and used in dynamic training scenarios. This plastic target can take hundreds of hits and remain serviceable.

identical effort, the very forgiving "Q" target yields greater ballistic gratification. Hits which score full value in the "Q" may only be worth three or four points in the B-21 or Transtar II.

Choose your targets carefully. Sure, you might have to work a bit harder to avoid bruising your ego and to achieve the same score, but the end result is worth it.

Going 3-D

Even the best paper or cardboard targets are only two-dimensional. To have officers gain a better appreciation of delivering decisive hits on a threat which presents itself at angles, a 3-D target might be included in the mix. If your budget allows, mannequins and self-sealing silhouettes are available from a variety of sources. Those of us among the fiscally challenged might make do with either polymer or cardboard torsos.

By using a pair of cardboard targets, a couple of empty ammunition boxes and some tape, I have been able to create a basic 3-D torso. An old shirt and last year's Halloween mask help complete the picture. Commercial 3-D torsos are available from Action Target. These targets can be folded together in very short order and balloons in the chest and head can provide instant visual feedback when scoring a good hit.

I've always enjoyed some pretty fair success using plastic torso targets which have been marketed under a variety of names. "Tactical Ted" consists of a hollow plastic shell which can withstand thousands of rounds of ballistic abuse before becoming unserviceable. Once again, these targets

Reactive steel targets and bowling pins provide instantaneous positive feedback when hit.

can be accessorized with a shirt, a hat and an old pair of pants, and can be used just about anywhere. To create a high value hit zone, I often suspend a roll of paper towels or toilet paper inside the shell of the target to reinforce proper point of aim on angled shots.

Reactive Targets

Reactive targets provide the shooter with some form of positive feedback after delivering a well placed hit. Depending on the type of target utilized, feedback can be visual or audible.

The most commonly utilized type of reactive target is made of steel. Steel targets can be fabricated in an almost infinite variety of shapes and I often use a mix of silhouettes, pepper poppers and head plates in my training. Only high quality steel targets from reputable manufacturers should be utilized. Care should also be exercised when setting up steel targets on the range, so that bullet fragments are directed down and not into the safety zone of another steel target. Always place steel targets on a safe surface, such as loose dirt or sand, to minimize splash back toward the firing line. Safety can be further enhanced by the use of frangible ammunition.

Steel targets tend to be very useful in holding the attention of shooters and keeping them focused on the positive. When you hit, there is an instant reward in the way of a loud metallic clang or falling target. Shooters are less likely to dwell on negative aspects as recoil and I find steel targets indispensable for shotgun training.

In Motion

In real life, bad guys move. In view of that, it would certainly help the cause if we could incorporate some moving targets into our training. If the sky is the limit, remote controlled robotic targets which can move in any direction can be had. Commercial running targets which run off a cable or track are widely available, but I don't consider them the best choice. Swingers which bob in and out of cover might be slightly more realistic, but we can still do much better.

Several years ago, I was able to cobble together a moving target based on Louis Awerbuck's innovative Mirage Target System. By using a combination of pipes, elbows, rods and springs, we created a target system with unpredictable movement. Shoot and don't shoot targets can be placed in close proximity and our homemade mover is very challenging – even when firing from close range.

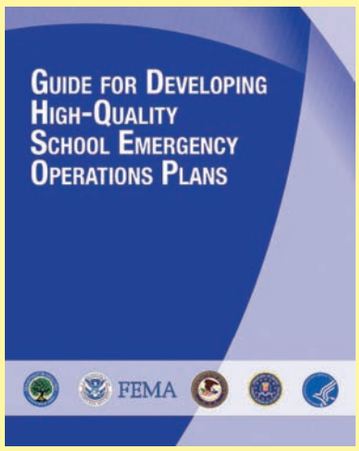
Mix It Up

No one style of target will meet all of your training needs. I recognize that one of the popular paper or cardboard designs will ultimately be selected for qualification and, in many cases, we don't have a choice in what we use. But, in our training, we can afford to get a little more creative.

Utilize targets with human qualities which require more effort to achieve decisive hits. This could include targets with smaller incapacitation zones which are partially hidden behind cover or are in close proximity to innocent bystanders. More cost-effective and street relevant training can be accomplished through dynamic training exercises requiring only four or five shots.

Anything we can do to make the training experience more realistic is a step in the right direction. Targets which replicate the challenges officers face in an increasingly hostile operational environment should be part of every training program.

About the Author: Captain Mike Boyle served with the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Law enforcement, and has been an active firearms instructor for more than 30 years. He has been an assistant police academy director and remains active as an academy rangemaster and instructor. Mike has served on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI) since 1996. He is the architect and coordinator of IALEFI's Master Instructor Development Program.



Guide Helps Develop School Emergency Plans

The *Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans* was released this summer. The title page credits the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Lessons learned from school emergencies highlight the importance of preparing school officials and first responders to implement emergency operations plans. By having plans in place to keep students and staff safe, schools play a key role in taking preventative and protective measures to stop an emergency from occurring or reduce the impact of an incident. Although schools are not traditional response organizations, when a school-based emergency occurs, school personnel respond immediately. They provide first aid, notify response partners, and provide instructions before first responders arrive. They also work with their community partners; i.e., governmental organizations which have a responsibility in the school emergency operations plan to provide a cohesive, coordinated response. Community partners include first responders (law enforcement officers, fire officials, and emergency medical services personnel), as well as public and mental health entities.

The guide is organized in four sections:

1. The principles of school emergency management planning;
2. A process for developing, implementing, and continually refining a school EOP with community partners (e.g., first responders and emergency management personnel) at the school building level;
3. A discussion of the form, function, and content of school EOPs; and
4. "A Closer Look" which considers key topics which support school emergency planning, including addressing an active shooter, school climate, psychological first aid, and information sharing.

To access the guide, go to **http://rems.ed.gov/docs/REMS_K-12_Guide_508.pdf**.

James L. McClinton, Ph.D

"YOU DID SAY SHE WAS DRIVING A CAR, DIDN'T YOU?"...

A man submitted a crime report to police in San Francisco, noting that a female driver had rammed another car in a parking space dispute. Unfortunately, the information he provided was of little use to the officers. The man could not tell officers what model of car the female suspect was driving, and he had no idea of the car's license plate number. However, he "was able to give a detailed description of the suspect's cleavage." Even so, no arrest was reported. *(I would have loved to read the BOLO on that one!)*

"But, the Vice President told me so!"... A 52-year-old man from Vancouver, Washington, believed he acted on the good advice of someone he considered trustworthy – Vice President Joe Biden. During a recent town hall Q&A event with *Parents Magazine*, Biden had recommended that people keep intruders away by firing two shotgun blasts into the air. "If there's ever a problem, just walk out on the balcony here or walk out, put that double-barreled shotgun and fire two blasts outside the house," Biden said. "I promise you whoever is coming in is not go – you don't need an AR-15." The man pleaded not guilty to charges stemming from his decision to chase alleged car thieves away with a shotgun blast into the air. During an interview with a local TV station, he said, "I did what Joe Biden told me to do. I went outside and fired my shotgun in the air." Arrested and charged with one count of illegally aiming or discharging of a firearm, he's currently waiting for his next court date. Vice President Biden had also told *Field & Stream*® magazine in an interview, "[If] you want to keep someone away from your house, just fire the shotgun through the door." In December of last year, Biden was selected by President Obama to lead a task force on establishing new federal gun control laws. *(Never take advice on self-defense from a man who has Secret Service protection 24/7!)*

"A fool and his doggie are soon parted!"... In San Antonio, Texas, police arrested a burglar after he took his Chihuahua with him when he broke into a restaurant and responding officers heard the dog yapping. Police say the restaurant's surveillance video captured the break-in which occurred in the early hours of the morning. Staff could not believe their eyes when they saw the 42-year-old man force open a door and then break open the jukebox for change – with the Chihuahua right behind him. "It's actually really funny, because you've never seen somebody break into a restaurant with a little dog following them," said the restaurant owner's sister. Police arrived at the scene while the burglar was still in the restaurant, prompting the burglar to flee along with his dog. The man then ducked behind some nearby bushes. Unfortunately, the Chihuahua's instincts kicked in and he started growling at police officers. They quickly located the suspect and took the unlikely pair into custody. *(The dog has been charged for impersonating a cat burglar.)*

It was an honest mistake – he was actually looking for a mental institution!... In Clayton, Missouri, police stopped a driver for a traffic violation. When the officer asked him to step out of his vehicle, he got out and took off running. He ran down an alley and then entered a nearby building. Once inside, he ran through a set of double doors and down a hallway which came to a dead end in front of an office. The man then dropped to the floor and curled up into the fetal position. It turns out that his escape was doomed from the beginning because the building he had ducked into was in fact the headquarters of the St. Louis County Police Department. Ironically, the dead-end office which he stopped in front of was the Police Department Intelligence Unit. *(The man probably could have used all of the intelligence he could get!)*

Sorry, pal, this was a gun buyback – not a "weapons of mass reduction" program!... Recently, Los Angeles police bought back 1,200 guns in one of the periodic U.S. buyback programs. However, when one man brought them a weapon, they declined to accept it. The man told the officers he was ready to sell them his pipe bomb, but the chief said, "This is not a pipe bomb buyback; pipe bombs are illegal." The man was then promptly arrested. *(I wonder if he planned to make more pipe bombs with the profits he earned from this one.)*

I wonder if the NSA and the IRS are keeping a close eye on this guy... A man who wears thong underwear and a cape while riding his scooter through Madison, Wisconsin, is a strange sight. But, police in the capital city say he isn't breaking any laws. Staff at an elementary school in Madison recently called authorities after the man rode by in his unmentionables while students were walking to a bus. A police spokesman told a local newspaper that a sergeant had a chat with the person who police call "Thong Cape Scooter Man." He admitted he used poor judgment in going past the school, but said he did it unintentionally. The city attorney told police the man broke no laws, so it seems Thong Cape Scooter Man is free to ride on. *(Unless, of course, he should happen to commit the unthinkable crime of tossing litter onto a city street.)*

Silly me, I thought getaway cars were supposed to be running with drivers waiting inside!... In Stockton, California, two men parked in the lot of a local Burger King®, went inside and robbed the place. A quick thinking employee spotted the robber's getaway car sitting unattended outside, with the keys still in the ignition. He then jumped inside the car and drove it around the corner. When the robbers exited the restaurant, they were shocked to discover their getaway car was missing. In fact, they were so shocked that they were still standing around arguing about what to do when the police arrived and arrested both of them. *(Maybe the robbers thought their car had been accidently "valet parked"?)*

New Technology

Holster Also Fits XDS™ 9mm

CrossBreed® Holsters, LLC currently offers both IWB and OWB **holsters for the XD-S 9mm** and the **XD-S .45**, including their comfortable and secure SuperTuck holster. The company confirms that their holster will fit the Springfield Armory XD-S 9mm. Since it has the same dimensions, it will fit the same holster as the XD-S 45.

Circle 5105 for More Information

New Mobile Message Recorder

Whelen Engineering Co., Inc. has introduced the **Broadcaster™ Digital Voice Mobile Message Recorder**. The **Broadcaster** is wired through your vehicle's current siren amplifier with radio repeat to allow you to record and play back an emergency message (either previously recorded or personally recorded) which could save lives. You can record up to a 30 second message and precede it with a siren tone, if desired. The unit includes a removable microphone and its small size allows for mounting almost anywhere.

Circle 5108 for More Information

New Video Management Software Program

WatchGuard Video has announced the release of **Evidence Library Express™ (ELX)** which is an all new video management software program designed to enable an agency to deploy the WatchGuard 4RE HD In-Car Video System without investing in any server computers or wireless infrastructure. **ELX** is designed to be simple enough for anyone to install and run on modest PCs so even agencies with no IT staff or IT support can easily begin to use the high-definition video solution after purchasing just one WatchGuard 4RE HD In-Car Video System.

Circle 5106 for More Information

The "Big Book" Is Now Available

Brownells is proud to announce that **Catalog #66** – its largest ever – is now available. The 696 page, all things guns "Big Book" is filled with the best, newest and most innovative products of all types. More than 2,000 new items, including ten pages of reloading supplies and two pages of night vision products, are included in this year's edition. The AR-15/M16, rifflescope and pistol sections have also grown significantly.

Circle 5107 for More Information

New Prisoner Seat for Chevy Tahoe

The new Aedec **molded seat for the Chevy Tahoe** provides a rugged factory fit and finish. The sealed design prevents contraband from being hidden from view while maximizing space to allow for a safer, easier prisoner load and unload. The innovative support system provides a 48 inch wide equipment storage area. The standard seat comes with the Aedec "Centerbelt" system, a metal mesh rear partition and all of the necessary hardware to install it.

Circle 5109 for More Information

New Night Vision Binocular from ATN

American Technologies Network Corp. introduces the **ATN NVB8** which features 8x magnification and gives the user extended range in low light to no light conditions with perfect clarity. The rugged **NVB8** is water- and fog-resistant and tripod mountable; it has a detachable long-range infrared illuminator and a built-in flood infrared illuminator. It is available in Generations 2, 3, 3A and 3P and in CGT, HPT and White Phosphor Technology (WPT).

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Introducing Elbeco's V2 External Vest Carrier.

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- Nano Fluid Repellency and Antimicrobial Technology
- Fully fused front for improved fabric shape retention
- Functional epaulets with mic opening
- Mic loop on front placket

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WARNING: Your ballistic panels must remain in your vest manufacturer's approved concealable carrier while being worn with your V Series vest. This external vest carrier offers no ballistic and/or stab protection.

To learn more about the all-new **V2 External Vest Carrier,** visit **www.elbeco.com** or call **1-800-468-4654.**